

11 killed, 4 wounded in Zamboanga raid

STORY ON PAGE A2

15

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Nur expected back by Jan. 15
NEWS/A3
- Bush vows to get Bin Laden
WORLD/A8
- Terraces rescue bill filed
ACROSS/A10
- GMA cried at the movies
NEWS/A3

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It's time for dual citizenship-Veep

BY TEOFISTO GUINGONA JR.
Vice President
of the Philippines

THERE are almost eight million overseas Filipino workers abroad. But no matter how far they've wandered, they relish sinigang or adobong manok and other native foods laced



IT'S/A14 GUINGONA

GMA, FVR kiss, make up

Erap also planning second coming

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

WHILE the spotlight is focused on the "rift" between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos, another former Malacañang resident is hinting that he would run for reelection in 2004.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada revealed his plans for a political comeback in his New Year's message released Friday.

"I commit to vindicate myself that I can return and fulfill my promise to uplift the poor who continue to be denied the better life they richly deserve," Estrada said in a statement. Estrada is in detention while he is standing trial for plunder and other criminal charges.

Estrada, 64, revealed his plans even as Ramos was rumored as eyeing a second term in 2004. (See related story)

Estrada said the country's social and economic problems have "worsened" since his ouster last January.

The Estrada camp has begun circulating his new video CD, a documentary titled "Ama ng Masa," the campaign slogan he used in the 1998 elections.

The video recounts his short-lived presidency and the alleged conspiracy behind his ouster. It also contains a pro-Estrada perspective

ERAP/A15



BIG thaw at Club John Hay on Saturday, or so the smiles of former President Ramos, President Macapagal and Speaker De Venecia, appear to say that the chill is gone, the thrill is back.

Holiday cheer breaks Baguio chill

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA
AND DONA PAZZIBUGAN
in Manila
AND VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE "RIFT" between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Fidel V. Ramos caused by reports that the former President was planning to run for president in 2004 has been repaired, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said.

"They literally kissed and made up," De Venecia said after Ms Macapagal and Ramos met yesterday at the ceremonial tee-off of the John Hay Chairman's Golf Cup in honor of Fil-Estate chair Robert John Sobrepeña, a close friend of Ramos.

De Venecia said "the rift has been healed because FVR is not running." He said the "2004 reelection of FVR, which people have been speculating about, caused the rift." Ms Macapagal is expected to run in 2004.

The Speaker said Ms Macapagal and Ramos had a "spontaneous" 15-minute chat before tee-off at which both wished each other "the best of the season and the best of the New Year."

He said the wishes came "very naturally" and that there were handshakes. "After that, FVR and I kissed the President on the cheeks," De Venecia said.

Ms Macapagal insisted that there was no rift to speak of in the first place.

But during the second-day telecast of her "Ulat sa Bayan" from the Presidential Mansion in Baguio, Ms Macapagal spoke bitterly about the difficulties faced by "a female president," who becomes vulnerable to power brokers "biased against women."

GMA/A15

Tales told about all the President's men

BY DESIREE CALUZA
AND VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo and economist Solita Monsod gamely tackled yesterday bawdy tale after bawdy tale about the President's supposed "extramarital affairs" since she took over the presidency in January.

The President, however, did not blow her top, as she usually does when denying a "preposterous" report.

Although clearly embar-

TALES/A15

HI HI HI...
NAKU, PURO
TSISMIS LANG
YAN! PARANG
SHOWBIZ!



MEMORIES Icons when radio was radio

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THEY'RE playing it again, Sam.

And they are the unforgettable from when Philippine radio was radio: Jo San Diego, Ben Aniceto, Eddie Mercado, Eddie Ilarde, Bong Lapira and Lito Gorospe.

They are back in the airwaves every Sunday with the kind of music that men and women fell in love by. The kind of music families celebrated the milestones in their lives. Or, just simply music to dream with while sitting on the porch in the afternoons of long ago.

Fresh from their stints in broadcasting, politics and TV hosting, the

six icons quietly launched last month the "Golden Years Special" which runs from 12 noon to 7 p.m. on dwBR 104.3 FM.

The country's surviving pillars of the good old "live show radio" have resurfaced to take people back to less turbulent times if only for a day. What "Golden Years" does best is to make people keep in touch with their memories. To a restless generation, memories may be the only constant.

Veering away from mainstream radio shows, the "Golden Years Special" follows the format of old school radio: 95-percent music, and 5-percent edible wisdom on life and love.

ICONS/A14



REMEMBER when? The golden goodies are, from left, Eddie Mercado, Eddie Ilarde, Jo San Diego and Bong Lapira.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Is Rizal's execution photo a still from 1912 movie?



FIGURE 1: The Luneta of Rizal's time had no trees; lampposts were shorter and darker in color as they were lighted by gas and made of iron. Also, the military cordon and the firing squad were all uniformly dressed in navy blue which should appear dark in the picture.

BY PIO ANDRADE JR.
(The author is a history professor)

THE PICTURE at left is the only known photograph of Rizal's execution. The picture has been reproduced so many, many times in books and popular publications that its image is deeply imprinted in Filipino minds.

But is the picture authentic? This question, it seems, has never been seriously entertained. I have, however, stumbled on many articles on the execution written or told by eyewitnesses of the historical event. These articles, half of them in Spanish, and unknown to Rizal biographers, shed light on the question. The known Rizal execution picture is of doubtful authenticity.

Professor Austin Craig, the foremost authority on Rizal, related the

provenance of the execution picture in the article "I Saw Rizal Shot!" in the Dec. 27, 1924 Philippine Free Press.

According to Craig, the picture "was taken by a Mr. Dumas, a French-Spaniard, who was an old resident of the city. When the Spanish military authorities found that Mr. Dumas had taken a picture, they tried to seize the plate, but he buried it in a hole in a stone wall and filled in the opening with cement. The plate was dug out after the American occupation."

The Rizal execution picture later became the property of Col. Juan Dominguez, the chief of the Manila secret service force in the early '30s according to Isidro Retizos article "Where Rizal Fell" in the Dec. 29, 1932 issue of Graphic.

ISRIZAL/S/A14



Second FRONT PAGE

11 killed, 4 hurt in Zambo raid

PAGADIAN CITY—The military has launched a manhunt for the gunmen who raided a coastal village in Naga, Zamboanga de Sibugay, Thursday night killing 10 residents and wounding four others. One of the gunmen was also killed.

The suspected Muslim rebels strafed a row of grass huts and also took four hostages, police and survivors said Saturday.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, deputy regional army chief, said the attackers in combination camouflage and civilian garb opened fire without warning. He said he could think of no motive for the attack.

Atutubo said at least six persons were killed in the initial volley. The suspected rebels then took the four hostages to use as human shields against a military pursuit.

Atutubo said the gunmen murdered the hostages after fleeing the area.

Survivors

Survivors arrived in the provincial capital of Zamboanga late Friday.

Atutubo said soldiers located and attacked the gunmen after the killings and killed one before the rest fled. They identified the gunman as Abari Sali, a former commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a Muslim separatist group currently in peace talks with the government.

Police said Sali was the deputy of MILF leader Barthama Sali, tagged by the police and military as the leader of a group behind a series of ambushes of soldiers and kidnappings for ransom in the southern Philippines.

"We suspect an MILF hand in the attack," he

said. "Troops are still pursuing the gunmen in the hinterlands. We are still investigating the motives for the attack."

The MILF is the largest of the active guerrilla groups in the Philippines. It is fighting to carve an Islamic state out of the southern Philippines but has a tentative ceasefire with the government as the two sides hold peace talks.

But Atutubo noted that the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim rebel group that has killed dozens of civilians in the past, also operates in the area and some fighters switch allegiance regularly between the two groups.

International terror

The Abu Sayyaf has been linked to the international terror network led by Saudi exile Osama bin Laden. It is still holding three hostages, including American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap on Basilan island.

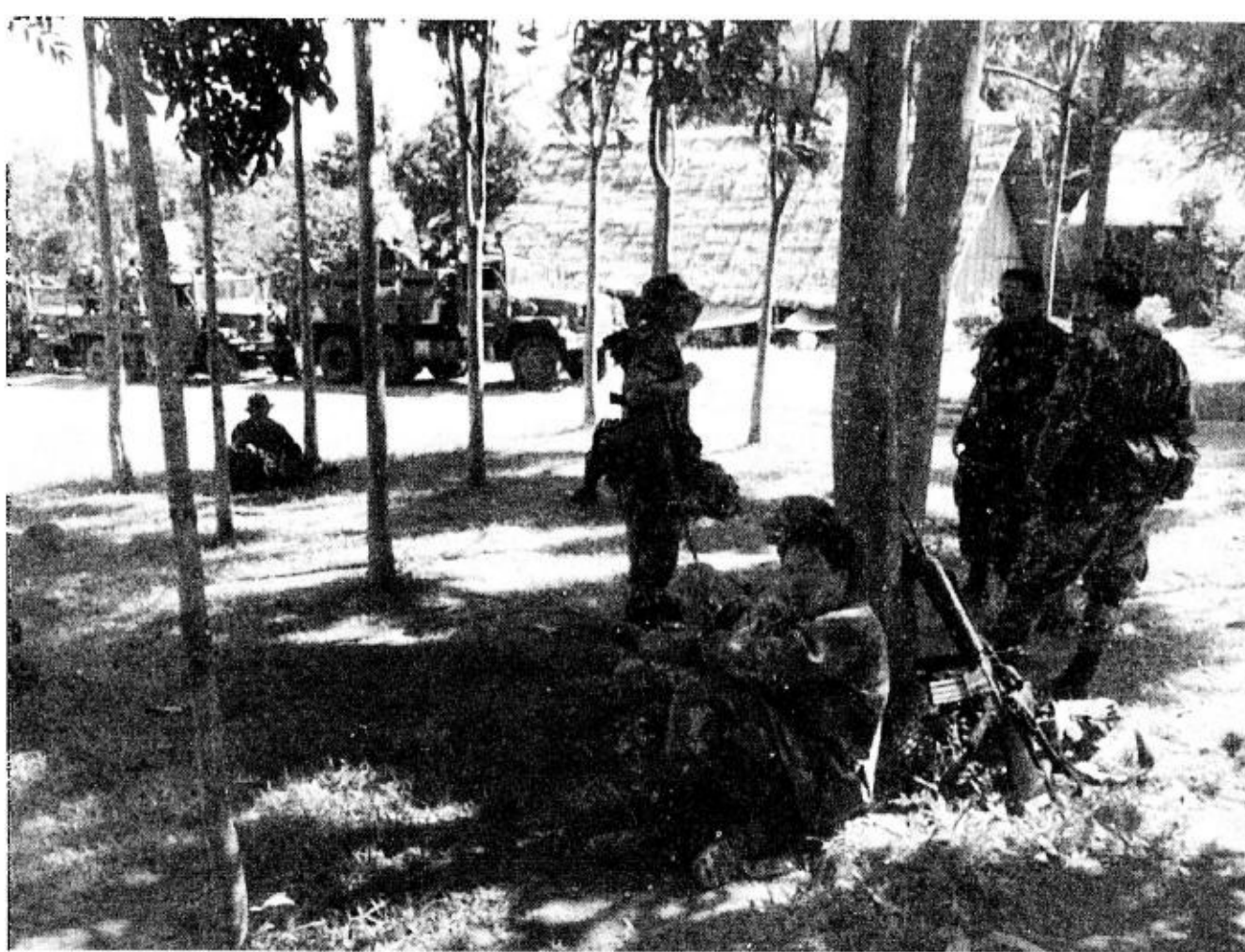
Roberto Andino, a 48-year-old villager who arrived Friday night at the Zamboanga City Medical Center, said he and 5-year-old Cristy Monte, his neighbor, survived the attack but were both wounded.

"We don't who they were," said Andino, wincing in pain from a bullet in the knee as several relatives crowded around him and the girl in the hospital.

He said the girl was hit by a stray bullet in the hand. At least five relatives around her hospital bed refused to speak to reporters.

"She's still in a state of shock," a man, who introduced himself as her guardian said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said he ordered troops to beef up security in the province and to track down the gunmen. AP, *Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



JUST RESTING. Philippine Army soldiers on the trail of the Abu Sayyaf take a breather. The holiday season did not provide them with a much-needed respite from their rescue mission. (See story below.)

DENNIS SABANGAN

Entry of US troops up to Palace-AFP

By TJ BURGONIO AND J. JAVELLANA

SHOULD the cavalry be finally called in—the US Cavalry, that is?

The Philippine military said yesterday it was up to Malacañang to decide whether to call in US troops to rescue American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham from the hands of the Abu

Sayyaf terrorist group.

"That's for the political leadership to decide," Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said in a phone interview.

Adan was quick to add, however, that the AFP was confident of its own troops' ability to rescue the couple unharmed. "The AFP is on the right track. We can do

the job. It's just a matter of time," Adan said.

Adan confirmed reports that government forces were closing in on the bandit-cum-rebel group, which has been linked to wanted international terrorism leader Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

The Abu Sayyaf have been holding the Burnhams hostage since May 27 when they took

some 20 hostages from a beach resort in Palawan. The Burnhams and one Filipino hostage, Deborah Yap, remain in Abu Sayyaf hands in the jungles of Basilan.

"We are in the general area. But the exact spot where they are has yet to be determined," Adan said.

US Rep. Todd Tiahrt is set to visit Manila ostensibly to press President Macapagal-Arroyo into making an official request for the deployment of American troops to Basilan to rescue the Burnhams.

"The whole purpose of the trip is to try to get our troops involved in the rescue. We have highly trained, highly skilled professionals but we are always courteous to ask for an invitation from the (host) government," Tiahrt had said.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday he has asked Philippine Am-

bassador to the US Alberto del Rosario to extend all necessary assistance to Tiahrt in his mission to secure the release of the Burnham couple.

De Venecia said he has asked Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Abdulgani "Gerry" Salapuddin to escort Tiahrt to Basilan should his trip push through.

But De Venecia said he was leaving it up to the AFP to decide on Tiahrt's proposal to allow US troops to come in and rescue the Burnhams.

"That matter is for our armed forces to decide," De Venecia said. De Venecia said he met with the parents of Martin Burnham when he was in the US in November as a member of President Macapagal's entourage on her state visit.

"I met with the Burnhams in Washington DC and we agreed to help

in whatever way we could," De Venecia said. De Venecia pointed out that Martin Burnham's great-grandfather was Daniel Burnham, the architect of Baguio City.

The summer capital's Burnham Park was named after him.

Adan pointed out that US troops, if they are deployed, would encounter difficulties in rescuing the Burnhams because of their unfamiliarity with the jungle terrain of Basilan.

"The foreign troops would encounter the same difficulties that the local troops have been encountering," Adan said, adding that the rough terrain and thick foliage of Basilan have hobbled the soldiers' pursuit of the bandits.

Some 7,000 soldiers had been dispatched to track down the core group of 70 to 80 Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Adan admitted the operation against the bandit group has not been easy because it is hinged on two objectives—the safe rescue of the Burnhams and Yap, and the capture or killing of the Abu Sayyaf leaders.

"These are the twin objectives. They are intertwined. They go together," he said.

"If the only objective is to kill the Abu Sayyaf leaders, that's easy. We just bomb the whole place like what the US troops did in Afghanistan. But that would endanger the lives of the hostages," Adan said.

The Burnhams were snatched along with another American, Guillermo Sobero, and 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27.

Of the 20, only the couple and Yap remain in Abu Sayyaf hands. Sobero was beheaded by the terrorist group.

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Dec. 15, 2001

Nasugatan ako sa daliri sa paa ng nagpapadure ako at namaga at masakit, hindi ako makapagpapadure. Hinaput ko ang White Pyramid w/ face of Jesus at nararamdan ko na parang hinhihigop sa loob. Pagiging ko kinabukasan, nawala ang kirit at unit-unting natuyo ang suget ko.

GIRLIE ng QC Hall

Dec. 16, 2001

Ginupit ko lang sa ads Abante Tonight. Nilagay ko sa wallet, NANALO ako sa ending. 3-4 ang tinayay ko, P3,500.00 ang panalo ko.

—MEANN ng Cavite

Dec. 17, 2001

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—RODRIGO ACCUVIDA Pangasinan

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—NIR, Cavite City

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—Lusing Aranez

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Dec. 17, 2001

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—CONCHITA LUYAO Tunasan Muntinlupa

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—Mahusay City

—Mantolin Cabuyo

Dec. 17, 2001

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Nur expected back by Jan. 15 to ease 'pressures' on Malaysia

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she expects renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari to be repatriated from Malaysia by Jan. 15 to spare Kuala Lumpur from the trouble of holding on to him.

In Kuala Lumpur, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia would not entertain a request from the family of the 60-year-old Misuari for safe passage to a third country.

The President, who was speaking in her televised *Ulat sa Bayan* (Report to the Nation), said Misuari would immediately be arrested, detained and put on trial for the crime of rebellion.

Ms Macapagal did not say where Misuari would be detained.

Misuari, the former chair of the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front who served as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, is accused of leading an uprising in Jolo, Sulu, on Nov. 19 in which 113 people were killed.

He was detained for illegally entering Malaysia last month.

Mahathir said there was no shift in Malaysia's plan to deport Misuari despite the appeal by one of his wives who visited him on Thursday.

"The appeal by family members is not for us to determine because this is our undertaking that anybody involved in such activities, we will not give shelter," Mahathir was quoted as saying by the Bernama news agency.

The President explained that the government was taking responsibility for Misuari to relieve Malaysia of the "pressures" being exerted on Kuala Lumpur by Misuari's allies.

She said the Misuari issue was becoming an embarrassment. The government had originally been reluctant to accept Misuari back and had been delaying his return.

"Malaysian citizens might tell Mahathir, 'Why are you taking care of another country's problem?' So we have to face our responsibility," Ms Macapagal said.

ity," Ms Macapagal said.

Misuari was arrested on Nov. 24 in Sabah where he fled after the failed uprising.

The government said he had instigated the revolt in a desperate attempt to stop the elections that would pick his successor as ARMM governor.

Ms Macapagal minimized the threat of Misuari's return saying the MNLF forces still loyal to him were no longer capable of mounting further attacks.

She said the MNLF was now headed by the 15-man Executive Council led by newly elected ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin.

"(Misuari) had some people with him in their breakaway (group) but most of them were disgusted that he left them so they are now talking with the government," she said.

Meanwhile, the Philippine ambassador to Iran has asked for additional staff to cope with requests from various Middle East countries for updates on Misuari and the Mindanao situation.

Ambassador Ernesto Llamas said his embassy was overburdened with the work of attending to thousands of overseas Filipino workers and "urgently and seriously" needed competent staff for this additional task.

He lamented that other aspects of diplomatic work were being "sidelined" because of the lack of manpower and funding.

One of the important tasks that gets sidelined is making representations or lobbying to establish stronger bilateral ties, particularly during summits and ministerial meetings, he said.

Llamas said there was strong interest among Muslim-led countries for updates on the Misuari case after the renegade Moro leader turned against the government.

"We cannot focus on getting and providing updates on the Mindanao situation because our focus is on the OFWs and we lack people to do that," Llamas said. *With reports from Christine Herrera and AFP*

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Runaway OFWs top 1,000 in Kuwait

BY B. RIVERA

THE PHILIPPINE consulate in Kuwait repatriates more than 1,000 overseas Filipino workers every year who run away from their mostly household jobs. The latest batch, 81 OFWs, was brought home this month.

Labor attaché in Kuwait Angelo Jimenez said the runaway OFWs usually complain of overwork, under-compensation and maltreatment by their employers. There are also cases of rape, but these are few, he said.

The labor office in Kuwait handled at least 180 cases of runaways in the last quarter alone, Jimenez said, adding that there were other runaways who did not report to the Philippine consulate.

The employers are made to pay for the trip back home of their runaway Filipino employees. If they refuse, the recruitment agencies in Kuwait that brought the OFWs in are made to pay.

He said employers do not like complications so they tend to pay for the runaways' fare home.

There are some 60,000 registered OFWs in Kuwait, more than half of whom work as domestic helpers of big businessmen and government officials.

Filmfest entry made GMA cry

A METRO Manila Film Festival entry treating on the effects of the all-out war in Mindanao of the previous Estrada administration on the civilian population moved President Macapagal-Arroyo to tears.

The President said "Bagong Buwan," the movie which won the best actor award for its lead star Cesar Montano, realistically depicted how much civilians have suffered in the war between the military and the Moro rebels.

Ms Macapagal said the movie should be able to explain to viewers why the military is unable to mount a full-scale offensive against the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan, like what the Americans did in Afghanistan.

"Yes, I watched it and I cried," Ms Macapagal said during her televised "Report to the Nation" yesterday.

The President did not mention the filmfest entry, "Di Kita Ma-reach," of her son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo. *Dona Pazzibugan*

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MDH holds Postgraduate Course on School Health

The Manila Doctors Hospital Department of Pediatrics will be holding its Second Postgraduate Course in General Pediatrics on January 21-23, 12-5 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Manila Coral Ballroom. The Organizing Committee for "School Health 101" envisions health personnel who are empowered and equipped to manage current school health concerns. Its mission is to update health providers on current trends and future directions in school health and their applications.

The program covers major concerns that face the school health provider. This includes the role of the school physician in child health promotion; screening and preventive measures for our children; and health maintenance for teachers and school employees. The curriculum also tackles common childhood problems that impact on school performance, school safety and research in the school setting. The distinguished faculty includes experts from the World Health Organization, the Department of Health, and the Probe Team, as well as medical specialists recognized in their field.

The learning process will be through lectures, live demonstrations and interactive sessions. Participation shall be limited to the first 300 registrants, so register early. For inquiries, call our Secretariat at MDH 525-6002 or e-mail us at docmadel@hotmail.com.

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Riza! today

If Jose Rizal were to find himself in the Philippines at the end of the first year of the 21st century, would he know where he was?

It doesn't seem likely. What, after all, would the famous man in the overcoat make of the horseless traffic that has overwhelmed the country's cities, or the mountainous malls that have replaced the open spaces of the town plaza, or, indeed, of the ambidextrous members of the text generation—children of an authentic but benign revolution? Today's Maria Claras don't retreat behind the walls of a convent; they simply turn off their cell phones.

But on another level, Philippine society has not changed at all since Rizal wrote his revolutionary novels in the late 19th century. Freedom has been won, that is true. Now—within the context of an inter-dependent world, held together by economic treaties that bind us with the force of law—we answer only to ourselves, not to a colonial power. But aside from the basic democratic promise of "one man, one vote," equality remains an ideal, an unfinished project.

When Tocqueville made his famous visit to the United States in the 1830s, it was the basic equality of conditions that impressed him most. But today, as in Rizal's time, the Philippines remains essentially a hierarchical society. Rizal used the multi-level steamer, Tabo, to reflect the ranks of inequality that structured the society of his time. Today, he would find that the arrangements on any inter-island ship continue to reflect the same reality, with one exception: the upper decks, the luxury cabins, would be largely empty, because those who can afford to use them can afford to take the plane, or indeed buy one. The social tiers are determined by the same factors: money, education, political power, and (at the upper echelons) more money. Only one factor is new: celebrity, which allows television and the movies to create "personalities" and to wield enormous influence.

His characters, too

PERHAPS, if Rizal were alive now, he would not write a novel to cure the social cancer that is eating away at Philippine society, instead he would write a soap opera, or a series of 30-second commercials. But because his work would inevitably include an unforgiving look at the image-making industries as well, chances are that it would not air at all. His fearsome education would only get him so far.

Indeed, too much education does not translate well on television; in his case, it wouldn't even guarantee him a talk show. (With very few exceptions, all talking heads on TV are unburdened by the benefits of higher education.)

But in news shows and in newspaper columns, Rizal would certainly recognize the characters he first discovered. In the old Senate, for example, he would have recognized a feisty senator as the living reincarnation of a stereotype he is responsible for. No, we don't mean the tragic character of Sisa, the mother of Crispin and Basilio who descended into madness. Sisa's fate is ultimately tragic; she is the mother as martyr, pushed to the extreme. We mean the uproariously comic character of Doña Victorina: smug in her pretensions, and wonderfully oblivious of the comedy she was creating. While it is true that Doña Victorina did not claim to have studied at Harvard and Oxford (truth, we are reminded yet again, is truly stranger than fiction), the former senator is guilty of the same social-climbing, turn-your-back-on-your-own-kin sin. While she did not marry a timorous Spaniard, she did do the modern equivalent: she got herself a law degree.

In the executive suites and the exclusive villages, and most of all in high-powered, well-connected law firms such as the most famous one during the Marcos era, he will recognize men—and women too—who are mere variations on a theme of Kapitan Tiago: sincere in their convictions about what ought to be done for the country, but compromised by their very position and cuckolded by others in authority—then ecclesiastical, today more likely bureaucratic. In and out of public office, the national hero will recognize the features of modern-day Padre Damasos—men and women who pay lip service to their public duties (the welfare of the poor, for instance), but whose private behavior (unbridled gambling and uninhibited womanizing, not to mention hundred-dollar leather slippers) undermines the very faith of the public they serve.

If Rizal were alive today, he would have to start all over again.



Is the government afraid of Misuari?

IT has become increasingly clear that in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, we have a most indecisive President. I will not say this is due to female fickleness because there are women who are able to stand fast on their decisions once they make up their mind. Ms Gloria's weakness is hers alone.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was a resolute leader and earned the affectionate sobriquet of "The Iron Lady." One of her admirable virtues was her forthrightness when confronted with a sticky issue. She did not vacillate like some people we know. Compared to her, our own President is like Jell-O.

President Macapagal's uncertainties have never been more obvious than in her recent and current conduct of the Nur Misuari affair. When the notorious fugitive was arrested in Malaysia last month for illegal entry, everybody expected our government to request his return to our country for prosecution. Instead, according to the headlines at that time, President Macapagal declined Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's offer to deliver Misuari back to us. In effect, she said, "Thanks, but no thanks. You can keep him."

That initial reaction puzzled many people, perhaps including Mahathir himself who wants to get rid of the unwelcome foreigner. Soon enough, her ear always attuned to the political winds, Ms Macapagal was singing a different tune to soothe the public backlash.

Her government then said it was going to make a formal request for Misuari's return but only after Malaysia shall have finished investigating his minor offense. That request was supposed to be made by Dec. 24, but that day has come and gone, and Misuari is still out there. The Department of Foreign Affairs appeared to be confused without a clear signal from the President. She was still dilly-dallying like an insecure teenager.

The other Cabinet members seemed to be also in the dark about their President's intentions. Executive Secretary Alberto P. Romulo, the Little President, was quoted the other week as saying, "As far as I know, I think he will be returned here." National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said our

SEPARATE
OPINIONIsagani
A. Cruz

government would take Misuari back, but he could have been preempting his boss. President Macapagal had said then that she would make her decision only after meeting with the Organization of Islamic Conference leaders next month.

On the 21st, though, the papers announced that after conferring with the OIC leaders the night before (not next month), President Macapagal had finally decided to accept Misuari sometime this coming January. Arrangements are reportedly being made between the Philippines and Malaysia to rid the latter at last of its unwanted visitor.

All this is welcome news provided our President does not waver again. Her decision this time is not unilateral but was reached in consultation and agreement with the representatives of Malaysia and Indonesia. These countries saw fit to intervene on behalf of the OIC because they regard Misuari, although wanted by our police, as vested with some extraordinary belligerent exemption.

I do not see what possible connection or influence the OIC may have on our President's action, which she herself says involves an internal matter under the exclusive jurisdiction of our own country. Misuari is just a citizen of the Philippines accused of violating our own laws and does not enjoy any diplomatic status. It is not as if he were an international person or a foreign dignitary entitled to the traditional courtesies and immunities observed under the law of nations.

Golez may entertain this obsequious brainstorm because I heard him say on TV that, "Misuari is an important figure and so must be treated with respect." That's absolute rot, of

course. It suggests that other persons do not have to be respected because they are not important like Misuari. I'm sure Golez did not mean it that way, but he should be more careful with his public remarks lest he visit the wrath of unimportant persons like us upon his head.

Every person is important regardless of stature and deserves to be respected, especially if he is not facing criminal charges like Misuari. Misuari must be respected like any other person, but not more so because of his notoriety.

I think President Macapagal and her national security adviser are dealing ever so carefully with Misuari because they are afraid of him. The commander in chief, with all the Armed Forces at his beck and call, doesn't dare anger Misuari lest he blow his broken bugle and call his ragtag rebels to arms against the Republic. The derelict MNL leader is brandishing his rusted *kampilan* again like a wasted warlord, and the government is quaking in its boots.

Resuming his threadbare rebellion is Misuari's ploy to escape the criminal charges against him. He is using—translation: *exploiting*—his gullible followers to scare the daylight out of Ms Macapagal and her generals. Fear of this failed figure should not deter President Macapagal from performing her constitutional duty to execute the laws and prosecute Misuari like any other suspected felon.

Even now, the authorities are reportedly preparing to roll the red carpet for Misuari and to detain him in comfortable quarters just like the Estradas. He will also be a Very Important Prisoner. The justification for this special treatment is the usual "national security" that Marcos used effectively to oppress his enemies under martial law. Now President Macapagal, in a curious reversal, is using the same pretext to favor hers.

Rizal, who embraced martyrdom at the Luneta 105 years ago today, must be wondering if the present condition of our country was worth his sacrifice. Did the patriot die so our government could, among other absurdities, cater to the likes of Nur Misuari?

Family values

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry

M. Orbos, SVD



"FATHER Orbos, remember me?" the thirtyish-looking gentleman asked as he made *mano* to me after an advent recollection at the Greenbelt Chapel. He was my former student in high school, and he is now a successful doctor and doing quite well in his career. When I asked him about his family, his answer was: "Father, remember how you repeatedly taught us in our Theology class about the value of family? Well, I value family so much, that I now have three families!"

Do you value your family? Do you consider your family as your greatest treasure, your *tanging yaman* in this life? Do you feel confident that you have a family where you really belong? Do you wish sometimes that you had another set of family members, and not the ones you have right now? Do you ever feel that your family is just an obligation, or maybe, just a burden in your life? Questions, questions.

But perhaps the questions can also be reversed: Does your family value you? Do they consider you a treasure? Are you a burden to your family?

What is the secret of a happy marriage? Well, it still remains a secret. What is the secret of a happy family? It has to be a holy family.

The Gospel today (Mt. 2, 13-15, 19-23) speaks about Joseph's obedience to God's will. The presence or the absence of God in a family can make the difference. There must be a presence, a focus, a power greater than you and I, greater than our natural ties that bind us and hold us together. "The family that prays together, stays together."

Is your family not that close? Maybe it is because you do not pray together or pray for each other. Maybe it is because you no longer pray together and no longer pray for each other.

Openness to God's presence and obedience to God's will led Joseph to right decisions in his family. He was the head of the Holy Family, but he listened to God for instructions, which he con-

sequently obeyed. Joseph the dreamer was also the obedient doer. Joseph could have refused to go to Egypt, as he was instructed in his dream. Or, he could have refused to go back to Israel, or, he could have settled down somewhere else, not in Nazareth. Joseph reminds us that as long as we listen to God in prayer and discernment, and as long as we follow God's will in obedience, we will be okay come what may.

The presence of God in one's life does not mean the absence of trials and problems, but the presence of a Presence that will lead and uphold us. Is God really present in your family?

Are you present to one another? By the way, there is no such thing as a perfect family. Each family has its own share of problems, trials, "black sheep" and disappointments. We all have real problems, but what makes us family is the decision, the commitment not to give up, and to continue to reach out to one another.

Give up *ka na ba sa family mo*? Give up *na ba ang family mo sa iyo*? Any which way you lose. So don't give up, and don't be the weakest link in your family.

How do we keep the flame alive in our families? Let us take a cue from that lovable cartoon character Barney and his heartwarming song that says: "I love you, you love me. We are a happy family. With a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me too?" That's it,

keep saying and keep expressing your love for each other, no matter what.

My uncle Ben Muñoz, now 84 years old, has traveled all the way from Toronto, Canada, with his wife Tia Betty and children Cecille, Sue and Lisa to surprise his sister Conching, my mama, on her 80th birthday. Just observing them together these past days, I could feel the closeness and the respect they have for each other, and the deep religious ties that bind them together. Seeing them and our other surviving uncle, Dr. Angel Muñoz, together, I can't help but be inspired and be grateful to God for having been their source of strength and inspiration all these years. Time and distance have not diminished at all the love, care and respect they have for each other.

Families out there, keep on believing and keep on working for a happy and a holy family.

As the text message says, here's wishing you all 12 months of happiness, 52 weeks of love, 365 days of success, 8,760 hours of good health, 525,000 minutes of blessings, and 3,153,600 seconds of joy!

As we face the New Year ahead, be reminded that the words "Be not afraid" occur more than 365 times in the Bible. That's a good reminder for every single day of the year 2002 and more!

We do not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future in His hands. Rest assured the Lord has a beautiful plan for all of us. Let's all pray and work for a better Philippines, a better world.

I wish you all a happy and a better New Year, in all aspects, in Jesus' name. Amen!

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, help me to value my family and please help my family to value me. Amen.

From Clark Kent to Superman

WASHINGTON—Sept. 11 dramatically transformed a political year that began with uncertainty about George W. Bush's legitimacy as president after his contested election.

The president and his foreign policy team became clear winners in 2001 in a political world turned on its head, analysts say. Much of the year's politics before the attacks became irrelevant.

"He lost the popular vote and ended the year with stratospheric poll ratings. He began the year as Clark Kent and ended up as Superman," said conservative analyst Marshall Wittmann of the Hudson Institute, a Washington think tank.

Public concerns about terrorist attacks, homeland defense and the anti-terror war overseas rearranged political priorities across the board. And that came on top of a political year that was already remarkable.

"It was a truly extraordinary period," said Thomas Mann, a political scholar at the Brookings Institution, another Washington think tank. "We had four mega-events over the last year."

Mann described the events this way:

- "The most controversial presidential election in history."
- "A change in party control of the US Senate in mid-session."
- "A sudden shift from a decade of prosperity to recession and the reappearance of deficits."
- "And we had Sept. 11th."

Three of those four events have helped shape today's political reality. The fourth—the contested presidential election—has faded into the background.

Tom Daschle of South Dakota, the Senate majority leader, became the most prominent Democrat when Vermont Republican Jim Jeffords became an independent in May, giving the

NEWS ANALYSIS

Will Lester

Democratic Party a one-vote advantage in the Senate. Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi and Senate Republicans were pushed from power.

Talk of balanced budgets, changes in Social Security and social programs requiring substantial new money faded as the economy tanked.

Issues like national security, missile defense and international coalition building moved to the forefront for the first time in a decade.

"A new seriousness overtook American politics," said Mann. "It was a radical change from the 1990s when politics was so nasty and trivial because the stakes were low. Now there is a real threat."

Beneficiaries were the members of the experienced foreign affairs team put together by Bush, especially Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Vice President Dick Cheney, a former defense secretary.

Another politician whose fortunes soared after Sept. 11 was New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. His health problems and an embarrassing divorce were dominant images of the mayor before the attacks. But his steady, calm manner afterward earned him widespread respect.

The intense focus on the anti-terror campaign pushed news about most politics—especially the 2004 presidential race—far from view.

Democrats who needed to build their na-

tional profiles found they got almost no public attention for political activities. Al Gore, the former vice president and Democratic presidential nominee, won the popular vote in the 2000 election. He was evenly matched against Bush in polls before Sept. 11. After the attacks, Bush led Gore in a hypothetical match-up by a 2-1 margin.

The public had a favorable view of almost everyone serving in government and for government in general. The attacks had reminded them they need government to keep them safe.

"By suspending politics for two months, everybody's evaluations went up—of state legislators, governors and the president," said Bruce Cain, a political scientist from the University of California-Berkeley. "It was an interesting national experiment—the less politicians attacked one another, the higher the public's estimation of government and politics."

But Democrats have decided they can fight politically about domestic issues, while supporting Bush on the war. And by year's end, both parties had resumed the partisan political fight.

Democrats are betting a slumping economy and an easing of terrorism fears could give them an opening on their top domestic issues in the 2002 congressional elections. But any hopes they had of challenging Bush's claim to the presidency are gone. "Whatever happens in the future, questions about George Bush's legitimacy have completely disappeared," said University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato.

And the question about who can lead a sharply divided nation has been answered.

"It was an awful way to get there," said political scientist Merle Black of Emory University, "but Americans did find a leader." **AP**

A garden of memories and delights

I'D heard and read so much about Sonya's Garden in Tagaytay but never really made the effort to visit the place. However, the latest issue of Honda Motors' magazine carried a feature on Sonya's Garden, titled "Stop and Smell the Roses," and if the photos and text failed to move me, what clinched it were the detailed directions to the place and a number one could call for reservations.

I made up my mind to bring the family to Sonya's Garden, and the perfect opportunity (or excuse) presented itself after Christmas. My brother, Father Boboy, drove down from his parish in Conner, Apayao, for a post-Christmas break with his household staff. We thus decided to take a day trip to Tagaytay, of which a visit to Sonya's Garden would be the highlight.

Finding Sonya's Garden, whose location in its early days was something of a state secret, is easy enough. All one has to do is drive through the Tagaytay National Highway all the way to Alfonso and past the gate of the Tagaytay Royale Golf and Country Club. A few meters away, on the right, is a metal arch announcing the entrance to Buck Estate. Turn right on the road and about one-and-a-half kilometers down, to the left, you'll find a gate marked "Sonya's Garden." A short drive down the narrow lane and you'll find the first pavilion, with a gravel parking lot to the right.

Apparently, we weren't the only ones who thought of taking advantage of the long holiday break to visit Sonya's Garden. The parking lot was full, and when I had called the day before, I was told our group of 11 could be accommodated only for a late lunch—around 2 p.m.

THE WAIT was worth it. To occupy our time while other groups finished with their lunch, we wandered through the garden, which in its simplicity and generous use of common florals, some of them wildflowers, appeared deceptively overgrown and "natural." Everywhere, though, there were touches that betrayed the hand of a caring gardener. In strategic corners were stone bowls filled with water on which floated colorful blooms. Chimes tinkled amid the greenery, in-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



cluding small blue bottles hung with string that glinted in the sunlight and filled the air with their pleasant melodies.

Vines and creepers covered canopies, beneath which benches—and even a bed—invited guests to rest awhile amid the white gauze curtains, sheets and pillows. It would have been tranquil and restful and meditative were it not for the many other visitors wandering around and racing for photo ops against the elegant backdrops.

There's also a "country store" where one can find rustic furniture and home accessories for sale as well as bottles of Sonya's "super secret" salad dressing, native cheese, pasta sauces and spreads. Potted herbs and plants are also for sale, though supply depends upon the season.

WALKING through the garden path, I encountered a woman dressed all in white with a huge sunflower pinned to her blouse. It was Sonya herself, taking a Tagaytay neighbor, the noted neurologist Dr. Cuanang, on a guided tour.

Sonya's pride in her garden is palpable. Amid the seeming abandon of her plots and paths, she could identify particular shrubs and blooms, urging us to smell fragrant flowers growing on the vine, pointing out rare or unusual species.

But soon it was time to leave the garden itself for the main dining pavilion for lunch. "Shabby chic!" we all exclaimed upon catching sight of soft white tablecloth and napkins, and the place settings of silver and china that varied from one another in color and pattern, but made for a charming setting just the same.

Ambience soon gave way to appetite, how-

ever, as the first course arrived. Huge bowls of greens, topped with yellow rose petals, were laid on the table, surrounded by ramekins of fixings—chopped boiled eggs, crisp beans, strips of singkamas and carrots, cubes of mango and langka, and parmesan cheese. All these were to drown in Sonya's "super secret" sauce, which turned out to be creamy, tasty and tangy. "This is a must!" Sonya proclaimed as she dropped by our table, warning my son, who is a decided carnivore and avoids vegetables as much as he can, that anyone who doesn't partake of the salad would be charged double.

The salad was followed by warm brown and crusty bread, accompanied by a virtual buffet of spreads—white native cheese, pesto, capscum or red pepper, anchovies, a mushroom pate, and a combination of sun-dried tomato and olives. As if this was not filling enough, this was soon followed by pasta with a choice of two sauces: the sweet chicken and mango with white cream, and sun-dried tomato, accompanied by toppings like black olives and capers. We washed all this down with glasses of cool dalandan juice.

Sated, we sat back and watched with glazed eyes as the staff laid down dessert: camote in syrup ("I usually take this with a sprig of mint," Sonya said, tearing off a leaf from the floral arrangement) and fried bananas with a coating of sesame seeds. A light, refreshing tarragon tea washed away the rich flavors, but to this day the memory of a meal at Sonya's Garden lingers and comforts.

SONYA serves this menu and only this menu. But apparently, customers have not tired of it. As we were leaving at past three in the afternoon, I spotted a friend whose group had dropped by without reservations and was thrilled that they were still being accommodated.

"Worth the trip," is what a Michelin Guide "three stars" rating is supposed to denote. I would give Sonya's Garden four stars: worth the trip and the memories. As a New Year's gift, I'm giving you the number to call: (0917) 532-9097. Call and you won't be sorry!

Public leisure in postcolonial Baguio

A TRIP to Baguio on any long holiday break would persuade any visitor of the paucity of leisure in our society. This city on a hill originally founded by Americans for the rest and recreation of colonial bureaucrats has become simply too small and too lacking in facilities to accommodate Filipino families in search of a holiday. No wonder, most of our people are content with finding recreation in the air-conditioned glitter of shopping malls and the inexhaustible consumer culture on which they are founded.

I confirmed this for myself this week while vacationing with my family in this fabled summer capital, armed with Robert R. Reed's fascinating "City of Pines: The Origins of Baguio as a Colonial Hill Station and Regional Capital." Baguio today is not very much more than the hill station that Governor General William Cameron Forbes built in the early part of American colonial rule. Although the city's population has, without doubt, grown immensely, the facilities that would make Baguio the "multifunctional hill station" that the US Philippine Commission meant it to be have grown little since the 1900s.

Baguio was, in the first instance, meant to be a place for recuperation. Its salubrious climate and pine-scented air made it perfect for people recovering from debilitating illnesses. That is why a civil sanitarium was the first colonial project to be established in this wooded sanctuary as soon as it was decided that a wagon trail would be built connecting Pangasinan to Benguet. This health facility was put up at the site of what later came to be Pines Hotel. The health and resort functions were subsequently separated when a proper hospital was built on another site in response to the demand for a full medical center. Pines Hotel in turn became a complete lodging place for vacationists.

Of course, the residence of choice was, apart from the Mansion House of the governor general, the exclusive Baguio Country Club, which was inaugurated in 1906. "It is interesting to note," Reed observes, "that unlike most exclusive clubs in other Southeast Asian colonies, this institution was open from the beginning to Westerners and Filipinos alike." The latter referred to prominent Filipinos and colonial politicians and not to the public in general. Today, the Spanish and English-speaking elite no longer dominates the membership. It now includes a growing contingent of rich Chinese-Filipinos, reflecting the changing composition of the Filipino ruling class. This gated club remains off-limits to non-members, unless they can show proof that they are guests of members.

With the departure of the Americans, Camp John Hay has opened its gates and facilities to Filipinos of all social classes. But the amenities for recreational activities are woefully inadequate. This huge facility is still very much a golfer's dominion. Provincial excursionists, who do not pack golf clubs in their luggage,

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



can only choose between the skating rink and the mini-golf.

You realize there is something sadly missing in this historic mountain resort when endless tourist vehicles clog the narrow streets leading to the Good Shepherd Convent in quest of ube jam or peanut brittle. This is a commentary not on the good sisters' products (for they are undoubtedly good), but on the sheer absence of alternative destinations within the city. The same "ube pilgrims" are later to be encountered in the desolation called Mines View Park, in the shabby stable called Wright Park, and in the little Luneta-cum-Divisoria that we all know as Burnham Park. Only the market has retained its charm and color throughout the years. The rest of the public places and parks that Forbes built, following the designs of Baguio's chief architect and planner Daniel Hudson Burnham, have been occupied beyond their limits and have deteriorated from lack of proper maintenance.

What Baguio will always have, long after the pine scent has vanished from the air as a result of pollution, is the enthusiasm of its visitors. It took tons of enthusiasm for Baguio's builders to create a dream city up in the mountains that was accessible only by a tortuous wagon trail. Today that enthusiasm continues to be repaid by Filipino travelers from the lowlands who come to Baguio expecting nothing more than the sheer pleasure of getting there.

The exhilaration begins at Kennon Road. Majestic mountains terraced by a highway instantly lift the traveler from the cares and problems of daily living. Even though this road always seems unfinished, its rustic quality never fails to convey the perseverance of its builders. Known originally as Benguet Road, Kennon Road was named after its main builder Maj. L.W.V. Kennon, who took over from the early efforts of Capt. Charles Mead and chief engineer N.M. Holmes. Completed in 1905 at a cost of nearly \$2 million, the road, which was supposed to be converted later into a rail line, was one of the most expensive infrastructure projects undertaken by the American colonial government.

The huge expense was thought to be so unnecessary and whimsical that it became an issue against the American colonial government. The controversy was such that further appropriations to develop a railway

became unwarranted. Even the development of the city itself was put on hold. Only the persistence and enthusiasm of W. Cameron Forbes and later of F.B. Harrison saved the Baguio project. Forbes raised the money needed to develop the city according to the plans prepared by Burnham by selling choice property to wealthy Filipinos and Americans. He enticed members of the Philippine Assembly to come and visit and later to build homes in Baguio in order to make it easy for him to lobby for bigger appropriations for the emerging city in the Cordillera.

He persuaded the US Philippine Commission to pass a resolution that would make Baguio the seat of the national government for four months of the year during the dry season. This practice lasted only for four years as it was deemed to be too expensive and disruptive of government operations. But a Teachers Assembly organized every summer to permit public school teachers from all over the country to congregate in Baguio for seminars as well as recreation has continued to this day. Thus was Teachers Camp conceived.

A society need not wait until all its basic material needs are fully met before it begins to think of providing leisure for its citizens. Leisure is a basic human need. Too often, leisure is forced upon us by illness. Yet it is illness of the body and spirit that leisure precisely seeks to preempt.

The American governors knew that leisure was a complement to the work ethic. They built Baguio as a monument to this recognition. They came under severe attack for investing scarce public resources in what was deemed to be a playground for colonial bureaucrats and the elite. In the context of the period, the criticisms were probably largely justified. But we are today the beneficiaries of what might have been at that time a foolish idea. A hundred years after the Americans built Baguio as a summer capital, we are hard-pressed to find anything that would equal its vision.

As a nation, we have treated leisure largely as an object of private enterprise rather than as a public responsibility. That is why instead of parks, museums, open-air public gardens and promenades, we have shopping malls and movie houses. Yet, in spite of all this, who will say, from the smiling faces of Filipinos, that we are an unhappy people?

It takes so little, as a matter of fact, to make us happy. On a lazy afternoon in the middle of Burnham Park's crowded lake, a father steers the rented little boat carrying his whole family through the chaotic traffic of mini-gondolas. Momentarily, their boat strays into the jet stream of the fountain in the middle of the lake, spraying its occupants with a smelly mist. Everyone shrieks in feigned panic. That rousing experience of a lifetime costs exactly P80.

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Satellites that kill

AMERICA'S most wanted man, Osama bin Laden, avoids using wireless telephones. Some Western analysts say it's because he fears American spies would be listening with their sophisticated devices. Others believe it's because he remembers all too well the fate of another Muslim leader who paid with his life for talking too long on a wireless telephone.

Just five years ago, on the night of April 21, 1996, Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the rebellious Muslim republic of Chechnya and the most wanted man in Russia, stepped out of a small house in a forest some 20 kilometers from the Chechen capital of Grozny to make a phone call. He switched on his Inmarsat (International Maritime Satellite) telephone and called up Konstantin Borovoy, a liberal deputy in the Russian Parliament who served as his Moscow liaison. According to Borovoy, he and Dudayev were discussing peace terms being offered by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to end the costly war. The two-year war for independence being waged by the predominantly Muslim republic of Chechnya began in December 1994 and was going badly for the Russian army.

Dudayev, a former general in the Soviet air force, had thwarted three previous attempts at detection by not talking too long on his satellite phone. Russian signals intelligence (Sigint) aircraft such as the electronics-packed Ilyushin IL-76 had tried in vain to lock onto Dudayev's phone signal since January.

This time, however, Dudayev and Borovoy had to talk at length because the peace offer was of vital importance. The Russians had no Sigint aircraft in the air that evening. But one low flying Sukhoi Su-25 ground attack aircraft was in the vicinity. As the Su-25 circled, its pilot received the coordinates of Dudayev's location. The Russian pilot quickly "painted" the target coordinates with his laser designator and fired his supersonic air-to-ground missiles. One missile hurtled toward Dudayev who was still talking on his satellite phone. The missile's 110-kilogram warhead exploded a short distance from Dudayev, who died minutes later.

Dudayev's assassination, which the Chechens blame on Russia's secret service, would not have been possible without the crucial information pinpointing Dudayev's location. Evidence has since suggested that the source of that information may have been an American Sigint satellite.

The Americans strongly deny any role in Dudayev's death. Some Western military analysts, however, argue that the Russians didn't have the equipment to mount such a sophisticated attack. They suggest that a Western satellite, most probably American, supplied the vital information that led to Dudayev's demise.

The "likely suspects" in the Dudayev episode are the "Chalet" and "Magnum" Sigint satellites operated by America's super-secret National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). This agency, whose existence was only officially acknowledged in the 1990s, operates all the satellites used by different agencies for taking pictures and listening to transmissions. Twelve Chalet and Magnum satellites are believed to be operational, and may have been secretly reinforced by others since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

Resembling huge umbrellas with their stalks pointed earthward, the Chalet (now known as Vortex) and Magnum satellites are basically passive radio receivers that intercept signals from cellular phones, satellite phones, military "walkie-talkies" and other wireless communication devices. From their orbital stations 22,000 miles in space, they "listen" to the electromagnetic signals of millions of low-powered radio and mobile phones every day and relay this data to supercomputers at the US National Security Agency (NSA) for analysis.

The four or six Magnum satellites, whose umbrella-shaped receiving antennas are 100 meters in diameter, are equipped with "feed horn" arrays that allow them to intercept signals from widely different locations. During the 1991 Gulf War, one of the Magnums had a feed horn intercepting Iraqi communications in Kuwait, Baghdad and nearby locations at the same time. Under favorable conditions, these satellites can apparently keep track of individual mobile phone conversations, as well.

The Chalet satellites, of which four are said to be in operation, are older versions of the Magnums and are supported by a much older Sigint fleet of six satellites that goes by the name of Rhyolite.

The alleged use of either a Chalet or Magnum satellite in the Dudayev episode illustrates the extreme vulnerability of electronic communications to clever spies such as the NSA.

The week after Sept. 11, an unknown number of America's Sigint satellites were reported to have been "re-tasked" to hunt down Bin Laden. Previously, many of these satellites kept watch over America's strategic competitors such as Russia and China and avowed enemies such as Iraq. The re-tasking of some Sigint satellites probably involved adjusting the satellites' orbits so that the satellites' feed horns point at Afghanistan.

It is apparent that the US military hopes their Sigint satellites will intercept phone conversations of Bin Laden or his network, a task made easier by the small size and minimal communications in Afghanistan. Any electronic emitter not proven to be from a friendly source can be assumed to be hostile and thus a target for tracking and analysis.

Bin Laden and al-Qaida cannot maintain radio silence indefinitely. This was proven when Bin Laden called his mother on his satellite phone, a call that was probably intercepted by a Sigint satellite and later revealed to the media.

The disclosure of this taped intercept apparently made him more cautious about making phone calls and caused him to rely more on human couriers to transmit orders to his widely dispersed terrorists.

Some satellite experts, however, contend that the incredible capabilities of America's Sigint satellites may not be as effective when used against small, dispersed bands of terrorists who make it a point to maintain radio silence. The satellites work best against large organized units such as an enemy army that cannot function effectively without electronic communications.

An enemy with sparse communications, or who practices good signals security, is less vulnerable to signals espionage from space. Locating an electronically silent Bin Laden via Sigint thus becomes dependent on lucky intercepts.

Complementing America's Sigint satellites in Afghanistan are airborne Sigint systems that include the U-2R and TR-1 spy planes and RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft that carry passive electronic sensors for monitoring electronic emitters such as satellite phones.

The Sigint satellites are part of an overall intelligence gathering campaign that also embraces imaging intelligence (Imint) satellites whose cameras can identify surface objects less than three inches in size from 300 miles up while traveling at more than 20,000 miles per hour. The newest "Keyhole" Imint satellites also have heat-sensing infrared capabilities that allow them to see targets on the ground at night.

A new generation of in-orbit radar imagery satellites, called "Lacrosse" or "Vega," also make it possible to obtain high-resolution images of the ground even through heavy cloud cover.

Electronic intelligence (Elint) satellites are also included in this intelligence mix. A primary Elint program is "White Cloud," a satellite constellation that is the US Navy's principal means of over-the-horizon reconnaissance and target designation for its weapons systems that include surface-to-surface missiles.

It is estimated that the United States has over 200 military satellites in orbit with four to five being added to this number every year. These satellites cost the Americans over \$100 billion, according to some estimates.

Sigint, Imint and Elint satellites provide the long-distance ears and eyes of a combined effort to ferret out Bin Laden and al-Qaida in Afghanistan's inhospitable terrain. They give the United States and its allies a significant technological edge, but will not produce victory in Afghanistan.

Art Villasanta is a major contributor to a weekly on-line magazine about Asian satellites. He has created a website for Filipino veterans of the Korean War.

TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

What are next year's hot-button issues?

THE QUICK answer: The same as the ones this year, only more so. The question of political stability (a false issue in the last several months, a true one between January and May) may have already been answered, but new ones have risen to take its place.

It is possible that this year's biggest-ticket stories—transition politics in the Philippines, for instance, or the global war on terrorism in the rest of the world—already contain next year's hits. Herewith, three possibilities.

Civil liberties: the undeclared casualty of the war on terror

BY JOHN NERY

IN MANY respects, and especially in the first month or so of the battle for Afghanistan, the media called the war on terror wrong.

On Oct. 29, for instance, media columnist Howard Kurtz of the Washington Post reported on the beating US defense officials got from journalists asking "the quagmire question." He gave an example: Is the "high-tech, high-flying military sinking into an Afghan swamp?"

At that time, the battle was only three weeks old.

Matthew Rose has since written a useful and revealing summary of the ways in which US media "misfired" in its coverage of the unwinnable war. The front page story in the Asian Wall Street Journal (also carried, I presume, in the US and European editions of the Journal) zeroed in on American media mistakes, but even a quick reading of the summary will tell us that the scope of the report can be widened considerably.

Rose identified "five of the most pervasive myths that permeated discussion of the battle for Afghanistan in US newspapers and on TV and radio," to wit:

1. "History repeats itself." Afghanistan defeated the Soviets in the 20th century and the British in the 19th. A US military haunted by the ghosts of Vietnam will be spooked by the all-too-familiar combination of unusual terrain and guerrilla warfare.

2. "The Taliban regime is popular." The regime which brought law and order to a fractious nation can rely on countryside support and religious fervor to defend its territory and its way of life.

3. "High-altitude bombing won't work." The story that circulated by e-mail in October got the tone exactly right: How can the US bomb Afghanistan into the Stone Age when it is already there in the first place?

4. "The Afghans will make bad allies." The tribal character of the Northern Alliance, which only controlled a tenth of Afghanistan when the battle began, will undermine its effectiveness as a coalition of warriors and potential administrators.

5. "The Muslim world will boil over." The US-led strikes on Afghanistan will rouse the Muslim masses, topple collaborationist regimes such as that of Pakistan, and plunge the Middle East into a deeper turmoil.

It may be too early to know whether the fifth is truly a myth or merely a truth that takes its time in the telling. But the swift fall of the Taliban regime and the ignominious cornering of the al-Qaeda terror network have without question given the lie to the first four.

(It is worth noting that the Rose story appears in the news pages of the Journal, rather than in its opinion pages. Essentially, and famously, the Journal is two papers in one. Its opinion pages are the sanctuary of American conservative thought, to which many made a pilgrimage during the Reagan years; this "paper" even has its own website, at OpinionJournal.com. The Journal's news pages, however, are marked not so much by a conservative cast of thought but by the not-incompatible creed of journalistic objectivity—at least as it is imperfectly understood and practiced in a liberal democracy.

That the debunking of the myths took place in the news pages immediately defined the story as an exercise in self-criticism.)

Journalists, Rose wrote, "were significantly off-target on Afghanistan."

The errors in judgment were significant for another, longer-term reason. They have helped undermine the media at a time when its help is most in need.

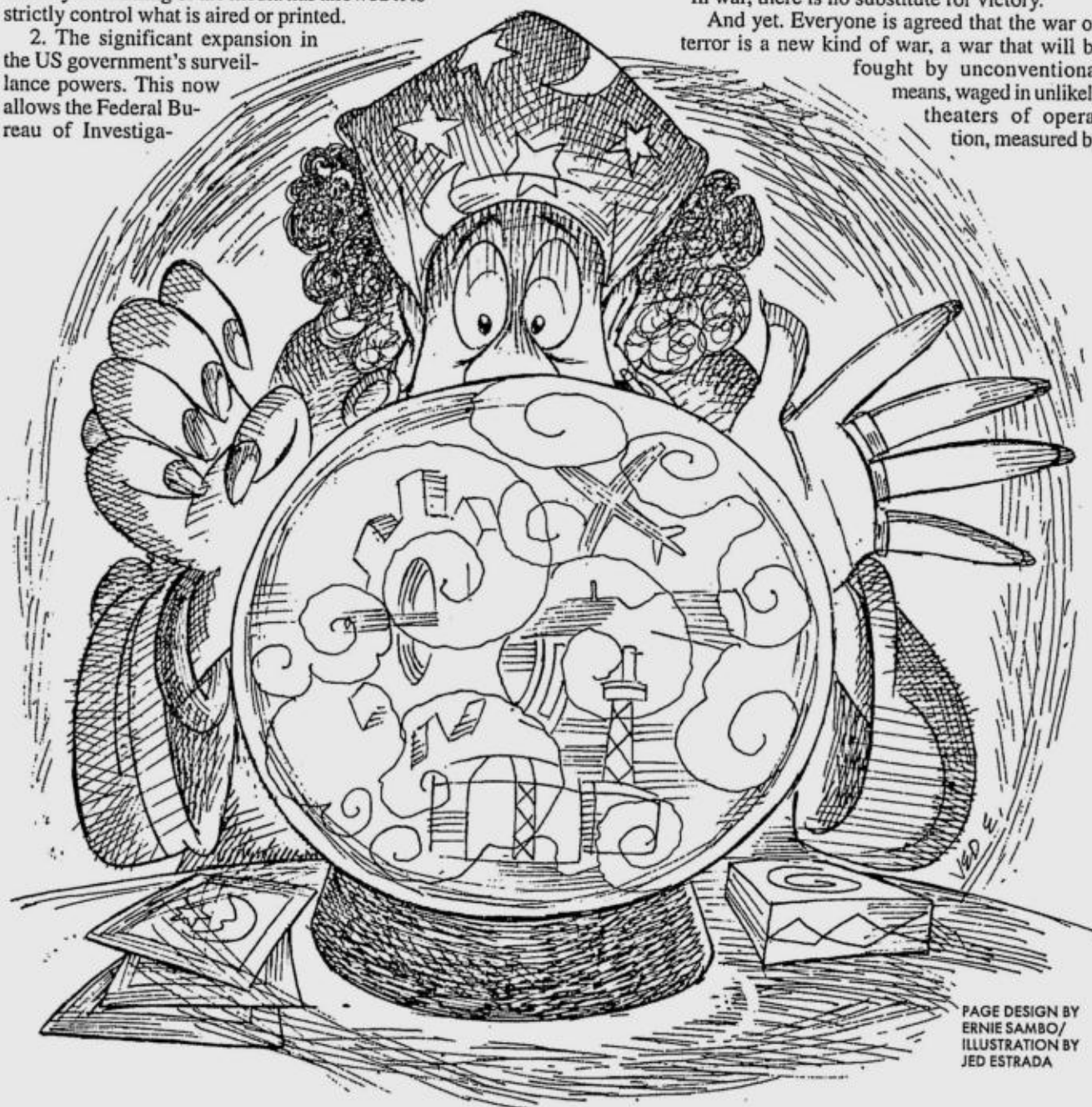
In prosecuting the international war on terrorism, US President George W. Bush has built the case that nothing less than the future of democracy is at stake. He may be right, but in one important aspect he is—in the eyes of many—that future's most immovable obstacle. He has given short shrift to civil liberties.

Consider the following, all subjects of various editorials in the New York Times and the Washington Post.

1. The severe restrictions imposed on journalists covering the war. First tested in the invasion of Grenada and perfected in the Gulf War, the military's muzzling of the media has allowed it to strictly control what is aired or printed.

2. The significant expansion in the US government's surveillance powers. This now allows the Federal Bureau of Investigation

The birth
of the
new—
three
emerging
topics



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JED ESTRADA

The biggest currency shift in history

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

ON JAN. 1, fully 300 million Europeans in 12 countries will begin using euro notes and coins. This is the biggest currency transformation in world history.

What does a single currency mean for Europe?

It will turbo-boost trade among the member states. In previous decades, exporters and importers lost some money when they had to change currencies. Those costs are gone now.

Competition will become sharper. A French university that imports laboratory equipment can easily compare prices across the continent—now that these are neatly expressed in euros. The school can thus get the best deals.

Homemakers can compare prices in buying appliances too.

With greater trade comes more growth. A Bonn manufacturer of CD players will no longer limit his sales to the boundaries of Germany. He can easily sell to the other nations of Europe.

Because they use one currency, it is far easier for a firm of one country to invest in another. Investment flows should rise.

The continent will likely see more tourism. Travelers don't have to lose money when crossing borders, for currency will not have to be exchanged.

Financial transactions will be simplified, cutting the cost of trading. The advent of the euro will swell the supply of euro-denominated assets, and will lead to a bigger European financial market.

Inflation will be controlled by the European Central Bank. Because of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Central Bank will keep the budget deficits and money supply of the member countries in line.

Moreover, trade in euros will make it more stable than any of the former national currencies. The ups of some European economies will be cancelled by the downs of others. That stability will make the euro attractive as an asset that won't be harmed by shocks to the economy.

Closer union

The shift, which should be complete in one or two months, is part of a long process. The Treaty of Rome in 1957 created the common market, aimed at promoting "an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe."

Following this was the Single European Act of 1986 and the Treaty of European Union in 1992. More political and economic ties were forged.

Then, on Jan. 1, 1999, the European Union fixed the exchange rates among the member-nations.

They started to implement a common money policy. One year after, sellers had to list prices in euro.

In two days' time, euros will find their way into wallets, bills and store counters across Europe.

The European Union is still far from becoming the United States of Europe, but the process is underway.

Last Dec. 14, European leaders gathered in Laeken, Belgium to begin work on a "European constitution." The plan is to have it in place by 2004. The prime minister of Belgium wrote a draft declaration which was criticized by a diplomat as "clearly written by someone with a blueprint for a full-fledged federal state in mind."

Up for debate is the role of national parliaments, a broader charter of rights, direct taxation, even a directly elected President.

The euro is wobbly now, but it seems that it will rise in stature to place second behind the US dollar.

There are various requirements for a currency to become a global medium of exchange. One is that the international community should have confidence in its value. It follows that inflation in the issuing country should be under control.

A second factor is that the issuing nation should have politi-

cal stability. A government racked by revolts will find its currency dumped.

Third, the financial markets of the issuing country should be broad and deep. Broad means having a wide variety of financial instruments, while deep means having well-developed secondary markets.

Fourth, the issuing country's share of world trade should be large.

The euro fits the bill. Inflation is under control, democracies are stable on the continent, and the financial markets there are wide and deep. Europe eats up a huge share in world trade as well.

Philippine impact

How will all this affect the Philippines? One view is that more trade between European nations means less dependence on imports from outside Europe. Hence, the continent may absorb fewer exports from the Philippines.

The other view is that the European Union will enjoy faster economic growth, which in turn will whet a larger appetite for imports, including those from the Philippines.

Philippine business must note that exporters now face simpler rules and a much bigger market.

Arroyo is an INQUIRER regular and a World Bank consultant.

The role of media in the politics of scandal

BY JOEL REYES ZOBEL

Anchor, DZBB

LET me begin with a quote from Michael Korda, editor-in-chief at Simon and Schuster, the giant publishing firm. "Success on any major scale requires you to accept responsibility..."

Responsibility is a wonderful concept. It brings to the fore rewards borne of consistent, virtuous and vigorous action. Responsibility, however, is a double-edged sword. It not only entails sacrifice. More importantly, it entails accountability. You cannot hold sway with the power equated with full responsibility and its just rewards without being held in restraint by complete accountability and its attendant pitfalls. That is a double-edged Damoclean sword.

Rarely in our culture today do you see that kind of responsibility matched by the same degree of accountability.

Opposing forces are at work in our complex history. It is a mix of contradictory principles and hence contradictory opinions. The "art" of bringing damage to a reputation has been raised to a level we have not seen before.

"When you have nothing to say, don't let anyone persuade you to say it." Sadly, H. Jackson Brown's advice is more honored in the breach than in

the compliance. And in the breach, the politics of scandal, bordering on slander, takes on life as an unnecessary fruit. If we accept the premise that the truth is generally considered to be the best indication against slander, then the search for it becomes the imperative business of the responsible.

Media will continue to make a major difference in whether an issue is going to be settled in the courts or on the streets. Such a force, if it were to be used for the common good, will require discernment and circumspection. Media provides a forum for mediation. As an institution, media should strengthen its role of leading and facilitating the discovery of the truth in the interest of social justice. Such a mission requires that we as media practitioners don't tell the people what they want to hear, but what they ought to hear. I think people don't want a valet for their vanity, but one for their money. This is the only acceptable and logical conclusion.

The challenge for me today, as a media practitioner, is to resist the standards of the lowest common denominator. And what is the lowest common denominator? It is, as Edward Kennedy said, the rationalization that all news is fit to print that has appeared anywhere else.

2 UP students drown in Batangas; 2 missing

NASUGBU, BATANGAS—Two students from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños drowned while two others have been reported missing after strong waves swept them out to sea at a beach resort here on Thursday, police said.

Found drowned hours after they were reported missing were Symone Donacao, 21, of Pililia, Laguna, and Cristina Quevedo, 21, of Taytay, Rizal. Donacao was president of the UPLB Student Council.

The bodies of Donacao and Quevedo were found in neighboring

Lian town, said Rodrigo Lazo, desk officer of the UPLB police station.

Still missing and feared dead are Karen de la Cruz, 22, of Quezon City, and Rowan Labo, 24, of Camarines Sur.

According to a report reaching police in Batangas City, the four were last seen strolling along the shoreline of Barangay Bucana in Nasugbu town the other day.

Police investigators believe the four may have been carried out to sea by strong currents.

Quevedo's body was found in

Sitio Matuod, Barangay Binubusan, Lian, about five kilometers from Nasugbu.

Donacao's body was fished out of shallow waters off Barangay San Diego River in Lian.

Medico-legal officers confirmed that Quevedo and Donacao had both died from drowning.

Supt. Rolando Lorenzo, the Batangas police provincial director, has ordered a round-the-clock search for the two students who are missing.

Civilian volunteers with private

boats have been scouring the seas off Nasugbu, Lian and Calatagan.

Donacao was among the 19 students, nine of whom were student council officers, who were briefly suspended on March 8 for leading a group of students that stormed the UPLB administration building to protest dormitory policies.

The preventive suspension order was, however, lifted on March 13 by UPLB Chancellor Wilfredo David. *Mei Magsino and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



ROGER MARGALLO

WHO OWNS this money changer's booth located in a restricted area at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Air Transportation Office Chief Adelberto Yap wants to know. Yap described the booth as a "breach of security," while banks operating at the airport have decried its "unfair advantage" at being located before the immigration counters at the arrival area of the Naia.

We are ready, officials say on bombing anniversary

By TJ BURGONIO
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is confident that there will not be a repeat of the "Rizal Day bombings" that killed 18 people one year ago today.

Police have not uncovered any plot by any terrorist group to sow terror in Metro Manila today, the first anniversary of the bloody bombings, officials said yesterday.

"So far we have not received any specific information about any terrorist activity," said Director Robert Delfin, head of the PNP Intelligence Group. But he pointed to at least three groups that continue to pose a threat to national security and are capable of launching terrorist attacks.

He identified these groups as allies of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari, the communist New People's Army and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

As a precaution, security was tightened yesterday at such vital installations as airports, seaports and railway stations; public utilities, commercial districts and crowded public places.

Some of the 14,000-strong policemen from the National Capital Region Police Office were deployed to conduct foot and mobile patrols around Metro Manila.

Under strict orders from President Macapagal-Arroyo, the entire police force has been placed on heightened alert since Dec. 19.

The heightened alert, he said, would "ensure the immediate and speedy response of PNP units to all types of police emergency situation."

PNP chief Gen. Leandro Mendoza also directed intelligence officials to monitor activities of all terrorist groups "that might conduct activities" similar to last year's Dec. 30 bombings.

Five bomb explosions ripped through Metro Manila at noon of Dec. 30 last year, leaving at least 18 persons dead and more than a hundred injured. These happened despite the massive deployment of policemen in the streets.

At least three persons were arrested in connection with the bombings, the National Bureau of Investigation said.

Doctors and health personnel in public hospitals will go on a five-day state of alert starting today in anticipation of a repeat of last year's Rizal Day bombings and of an influx of firecracker victims.

Lacson not off the hook—GMA

By DONA PAZZIBUGAN
AND JEROME ANING

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the investigation into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking and other criminal activities was still going on.

She said Col. Victor Corpus, the chief of Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces who is Lacson's main accuser, has not dropped the case.

"It's still there. Sometimes (Corpus) gives me status reports. It will continue," she said in Filipino during her televised year-end "Report to the Nation."

Corpus has accused Lacson of laundering millions of dollars in illegal wealth allegedly obtained from drug trafficking, smuggling and kidnapping.

He has so far presented as witnesses a former special agent, Mary Ong, aka Rosebud, and police asset Angelo Mawanay.

Lacson has denied the charges. Although criminal complaints have been lodged against Lacson in the justice department, no case has so far been filed in court.

Ms Macapagal said the US Federal Bureau of Investigation was helping Philippine authorities pursue the case.

"The Americans are also interested in narco-warfare," she said.

She indicated that the issue of Lacson's alleged secret bank accounts in the US was discussed during her US visit last November, but "not on my level."

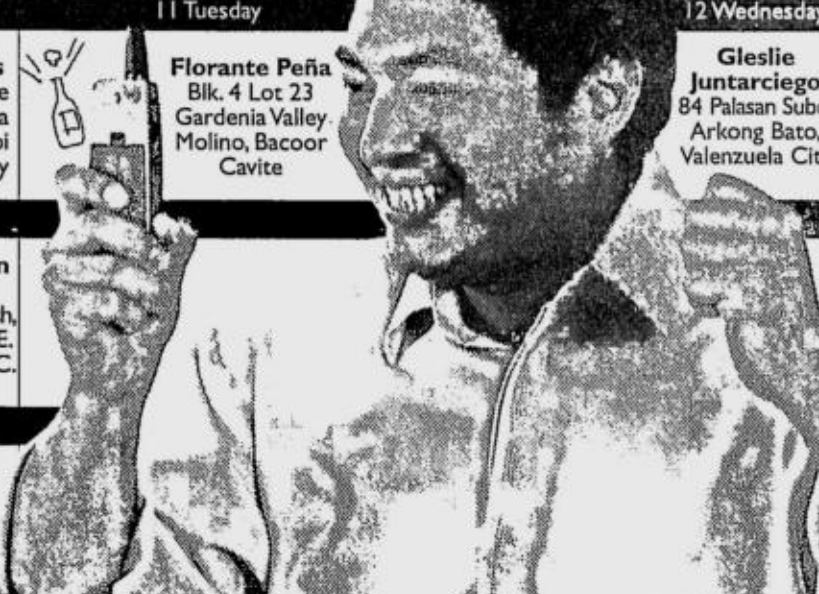
In a related development, the National Bureau of Investigation said hastening the extradition from the US of police senior superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao II would be one of the bureau's priorities next year.

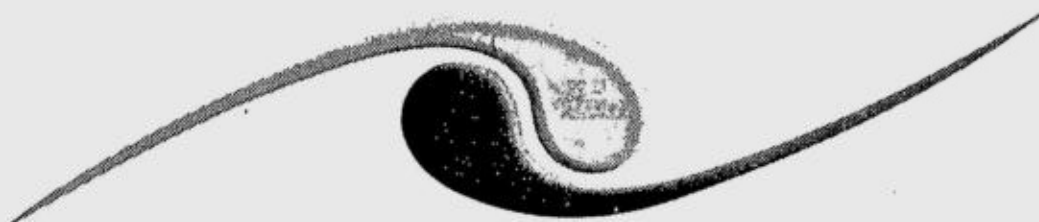
Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the extradition of Mancao and Aquino was essential to solving the abduction-slaying of publicist Salvador Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Wycoco said the two could name the mastermind behind the double murder case.

Earlier this year, NBI witnesses linked Aquino and Mancao to the murder of Dacer and Corbito who were abducted by unidentified armed men in November 2000. Their burnt remains were found several months later in a dry creek bed in Indang, Cavite.

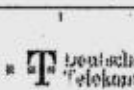
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		29 Monday	30 Tuesday	31 Wednesday			1 Thursday	2 Friday
October		Harrelyn Mejia 103 Brigade 11 DPA Tagwayan, Isabela <i>yehen!!!</i>	Alimudin Bitol Poblacion Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao	Mark David Quioic 35-BI Tongco St. Santa Quiteria Baesa, Caloocan City	November		Roy Tabora Mabila Brgy. Tipanoy, Iligan City	Marilyn Dominguez Ave Maria Street, Rosario, Cavite
3 Saturday	4 Sunday	5 Monday	6 Tuesday	7 Wednesday	8 Thursday	9 Friday	10 Saturday	11 Sunday
Teresa Hermogenes FVR High School Barangay Tigbe, Norzagaray, Bulacan	Ediberth Lluz 1404 4th St. Favié Paco, Manila	Jeff Ramos 57a2 Corpuz St. West Tapinak, Olongapo City	Adelaida Canlapan San Mariano San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	Maritess Timbol St. Mary's Subd. Phase 2 Matatalahib, Tarlac City	Albert Garcia Blk. 15 Ampalaya St. Tumana, Concepcion- Marikina City	Donnalía Cuadrante 38A Magato Laoag City <i>Winner!!!</i>	Maricris-Adlawan-Brosoto 44 Tatlong Maria Taal, Batangas	Arlene A. Salvador 57 H Dominican Hill, Baguio City
12 Monday	13 Tuesday	14 Wednesday	15 Thursday	16 Friday	17 Saturday	18 Sunday	19 Monday	20 Tuesday
<i>Panolo!!!</i> Albert Dy 1 Central Avenue Quezon City	Rosalie Eder North Poblacion Himalalod, Negros Oriental	Melina Antonia Elgario San Vicente, Pili Camarines Sur	Marjorie Lerio-Tioxon 15-2 Batay St. Brgy. Kaunlaran, Cubao, Q.C.	Morel Gagawanan 17E Don Jose St., Cubao Q.C. 	Ireneo Taguimod Local Gov't Unit (LGU), Solana Cagayan Valley	Michelle Ysip Cabaroan, San Fernando City, La Union	Catherine Moreno 3-EA, Alfonso St. Sta. Cruz, Laguna	Erwin Gabac 663 Gerónimo St. Sampaloc, Manila <i>yehen!!!</i>
21 Wednesday	22 Thursday	23 Friday	24 Saturday	25 Sunday	26 Monday	27 Tuesday	28 Wednesday	29 Thursday
Lilibeth Cagat-Cagat Hombrebueno St. Can Saranggani Province	Alfredo Dacuro 6716 Pinadacdao, Western Samar	Lorena Mulitas Malabag, Silang Cavite <i>Shopping! </i>	Lerwin Lim Brgy. Caragas Lavezares, Northern Samar	Pinky Taberna Purok 6, Sto. Niño Apopong, Gen. Santos City	Roneel Palaganas Purok 15, 695 Irisan Rd. Baguio City	Julito Bravo Cabaroan, Bacnotan La Union <i> more shopping du!!!</i>	Ma. Luisa Adrales 320 Daisy St. Dalisay Purok Uno Malolos, Bulacan	Evelyn Miranda Arenas Highway Arayat, Pampanga
30 Friday				1 Saturday	2 Sunday	3 Monday	4 Tuesday	5 Wednesday
Cell No. 0916-8415887 <i>1 won! </i>	December			Prisilla Buencamino 5052 Rosanna St. Parkview Homes Subd. Sun Valley, Parañaque	Efren Buñi 16 Samson Road Ext. Sucat Muntinlupa City	Jae Youn Kim 21-Q One Burgundy Plaza Katipunan Ave., Loyola Hts. Quezon City	Leoby Muñoz 24 Pampanga St. Bago Bantay, Quezon City	Nestor Casalmer 53 Dayap St., Western Bicutan, Taguig
6 Thursday	7 Friday	8 Saturday	9 Sunday	10 Monday	11 Tuesday	12 Wednesday		
Ruel Yee 1164 Mabuhay St., Tondo, Manila	Fernando Cortez 8 Sampaguita St. Surgie III, Camiling, Tarlac	Alma Bantang Canduman Mandaue City Cebu	Reynaldo Saldi 4th St. Maligaya Village Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	Kristin Fuentes c/o Skin Nutriance Center, 3/F 150 Jaka 2 Legaspi St. Legaspi Village, Makati City	Florante Peña Blk. 4 Lot 23 Gardenia Valley Molino, Bacoor Cavite	Gleslie Juntarciego 84 Palasan Subd. Arkong Bato, Valenzuela City		
13 Thursday	14 Friday	15 Saturday	16 Sunday	17 Monday				
Jonathan Pascua Cagayunan, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur	Cell No. 0916-8429518 <i>P20,000!!!</i>	Victoria Marlie Beafem Pinpin Calamagui II, Ilagan, Isabela	Virgia Laño Tubod, Danortis, La Union	Michael Hernan d/o Christ The King Parish, Green Meadows E. Rodriguez Ave. Q.C.				
18 Tuesday	19 Wednesday	20 Thursday	21 Friday	22 Saturday				
Daisy Rebong Blk 24 Lot 41 Banaba St. Cor. Reyes Ave. Greenfields I Subd. Novaliches, Q.C.	Mary Ann Candole Arpli, Balamban, Cebu	Melanie Obnamia 60 Quezon Ave., Lucban, Quezon Province	Cell No. 0916-8402951 <i>1 won!!!</i>	Marissa Rosal 138 Rizal Ave. East Tapinac, Olongapo City				



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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR



NEW YORK'S Times Square is seen virtually devoid of people around midday as police investigate a reported suspicious package found in a garbage can near 45th street and Broadway, Dec. 28. No bomb was found. REUTERS

Revelry, remembrance for Times Square New York spectacle

BY JON HERSKOVITZ

NEW YORK—The specter of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York will loom over Times Square on Monday when more than half a million revelers as well as police with bio-hazard and radiation detectors cram together for one of the world's most-watched spectacles to welcome the New Year.

Security will be tighter than usual and the victims of the attacks will be honored at festivities that will be packed with a bonanza of fireworks, lights and music, as well as the familiar ball drop to the cheers of a raucous crowd.

"It is going to be more of a traditional New Year's Eve. Of course security will be tight, as it was during the Millennium, and as it is always," said Robert Esposito, acting president of the organizers, Times Square Business Improvement District.

There were about 7,000 police patrolling Times Square for the Millennium celebration two years ago, and Esposito said about that number, or more, will be on hand this year.

Security measures for New Year's will include a check of everyone entering the Times Square area, with police wielding hand-held metal detectors. Backpacks are banned and the event is alcohol-free.

Police sources said bioterror squads will be standing by, police will be equipped with radiation detectors and there will be rooftop patrols, measures that have been in place for other recent major events in New York.

In addition, mailboxes, garbage bins and news boxes will be removed from Times Square, and plainclothes police officers will patrol the crowd, they said.

Police swarmed into Times Square on Friday after a suspicious package was found in a garbage can.

Police sealed off large sections of the square, one of the world's

busiest pedestrian thoroughfares, and called in bomb squad units with robotic, bomb-detection X-ray machines. The package did not contain a bomb, they said.

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani will be the guest of honor for the New Year's event, and his last official duty will be pressing the button to drop the ball and start the countdown.

Giuliani's term as mayor ends when the clock strikes midnight. Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg may be sworn into office moments after the ball drops to signify a smooth transition of power in America's largest city.

One of the new twists this year is a bell-ringing ceremony at 6 p.m., when the ball is raised in Times Square.

Bells will ring throughout the city to remember the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, and family members of those who died when the World Trade Center was destroyed will be on hand for the ceremony, Esposito said.

In addition, the 1,070-pound (485-kg) crystal ball used for the countdown will contain 504 crystal triangles in what organizers call a "Hope for Healing" design.

About 3,000 people were killed when two hijacked airplanes slammed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, just a few kilometers from Times Square.

The crystals will be engraved with the names of the countries who lost people in the attacks as well as the names of local fire, police and rescue squads who also lost people.

New York tourism officials expect an increase in visitors over the New Year holiday from last year, with hotel reservation rates at about 78 percent, three percentage points higher than a year ago.

Organizers said Times Square had become one of the safest areas in New York and encouraged people to attend the celebrations.

"We always have room for one more," Esposito said. **Reuters**

India scorns Pakistan offer to hold dialogue

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD—With fears of war growing, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf said he wanted to hold talks with his Indian counterpart but New Delhi brushed aside the offer on Saturday, saying its neighbor must do more to stop militants.

Musharraf said on Friday he wanted to meet Atal Behari Vajpayee during a regional summit in Nepal next week. But a senior Indian foreign ministry official said such a meeting was highly unlikely.

"India has always advocated dialogue with Pakistan but under the present circumstances, until Pakistan is able to create a conducive climate by acting resolutely and meaningfully against terrorism, the outlook for such dialogue cannot be promising," the official said.

As the nuclear-armed neighbors mass troops on the border and trade tit-for-tat sanctions, President George W. Bush said the United States was working hard to restore calm and prevent a fourth war between the South Asian countries.

India has already rejected the idea of talks at the Nepal summit but Musharraf said New Delhi needed to show openness to cool the heated exchanges between the two, triggered by a suicide attack on India's parliament earlier this month that left 14 people dead.

India has accused two Pakistan-based groups fighting its rule in Kashmir, its only Muslim-majority state and focus of two of its three wars with Pakistan since independence in 1947,

for the attack. The Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba groups have denied involvement.

"I don't mind meeting with him but you can't clap with one hand," Musharraf told reporters after a dinner at the presidential palace on Friday. "He (Vajpayee) must show willingness on his side and there will be willingness on our side."

Pakistan's military leader said his country would never initiate a war. "Pakistan stands for peace, we do not want war," he told guests at the dinner. "We will never initiate a war unless it is thrust upon us."

India has said the parliament attack was the last straw after showing restraint following attacks blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

Vajpayee is also facing elections in

India's biggest state and three others in February and is under intense pressure from his own party and many ordinary Indians to take tough action.

A meeting of the national executive of Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday is expected to urge the government to take stringent action to curb terrorism.

Vajpayee has convened a meeting of leaders of political parties on Sunday to discuss relations between India and Pakistan, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan told reporters after a Cabinet meeting.

The United States fears a conflict between India and Pakistan will hamper its war against terrorism, including its hunt for Osama bin Laden, blamed for masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. **Reuters**

Militants attack Israeli patrol

JERUSALEM—Ignoring Yasser Arafat's truce order, two members of the militant Islamic Jihad group on Friday attacked an Israeli Army patrol in the Gaza Strip in a failed suicide mission.

Troops killed one assailant, and found remnants of an explosives belt near his body.

Also Friday, Israel lifted a blockade of Bethlehem, the second West Bank town where travel restrictions were eased this week in response to a recent drop in violence. Palestinian attacks on Israelis have decreased sharply since Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat renewed a truce call Dec. 16.

However, Israel's Army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, on Friday dismissed Arafat's crackdown on militants, saying the Palestinian Authority itself is "infected by terror from head to toe and does everything to disrupt our lives, and to bring terrorism to our doorsteps."

The Palestinian Cabinet demanded after its weekly session Friday that the United States send its special mediator, retired Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni, back to the region as soon as possible to oversee confidence-building measures that would lead to an eventual resumption of peace talks.

Israel TV's Channel Two said Zinni was expected to return to the Middle East by next week if there was no major outburst of violence.

Zinni left the region in mid-December, after a failed three-week truce mission that saw a sharp increase in violence. The US State Department would not comment on Zinni's possible return.

Later Friday, US Secretary of State Colin Powell called Arafat to discuss the recent security situation in the territories, Arafat's office said. Powell welcomed Arafat's efforts to calm the situation—including the arrests of militants—and said he would try to press Israel to ease the closure on the Palestinian areas. In the 25-minute call, Powell assured Arafat that the United States will continue to sponsor peace talks and push for their renewal. **AP**



MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUM

An Indonesian soldier dressed in a traditional costume is pulled back by his colleague after marching the wrong way during a ceremonial military parade in Jakarta held to mark the Army's 56th anniversary on Dec. 29. Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri gave a morale-boosting message to the Army, saying soldiers were needed to uphold the country's unity. **Reuters**

Bush vows to track down Bin Laden 'dead or alive'

CRAWFORD, Texas—President George W. Bush on Friday rejected suggestions that the US campaign in Afghanistan may soon wind down—and made a fresh vow to track down terror suspect Osama bin Laden "dead or alive."

Bush, though on vacation at his Texas ranch, was focused on events in South Asia, where US troops were hunting Bin Laden, the top suspect in Sept. 11 terror attacks, and nuclear rivals India and Pakistan slid into a new Cold War.

Pakistan said that if Bin Laden strayed into its territory, he would be seized, and promised it would not start a war with its archrival after Washington

expressed concern the crisis could impinge on the US-led war on terrorism.

Bush spoke to reporters outside his ranch, and was quick to discount suggestions by a member of the interim Afghan government that US operations might no longer be needed, once pockets of resistance by Bin Laden's al-Qaida network were quelled.

"We're going to be there for a while, and I don't know the exact moment when we leave, but it's not until this mission is complete," he said, flanked by Gen. Tommy Franks, who commands US troops in the war in Afghanistan.

The campaign "will take as long as

it takes," said Franks, defining the mission as an insurance operation designed to keep the interim government on its feet and to promote stability.

Mohammad Hafeez, spokesperson for Afghan Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim, earlier suggested a judgment should be made as to whether the US campaign should continue once the last al-Qaida fighters were captured or killed.

"I hope this scattered resistance also will finish in three or four days' time," Hafeez said. "Afterward we will see if there is a need for (a continuation) or not." **AFP**

Australia bush fires likely to get worse

SYDNEY—Fire officials told residents living around Australia's biggest city on Saturday the battle against raging bush fires was far from over and said extreme weather conditions were expected to fuel the blazes.

Relatively mild and calm weather conditions on Friday helped firefighters contain some of the 100 bush fires burning across New South Wales state. Many of the fires have burned out of control since Christmas Day.

But outbreaks in the Blue Mountains to the west of Sydney and fires 15 km to the south and in the Spencer district around 40 km to the north were of major concern.

State officials warned the respite would likely only be temporary, with temperatures on Sunday forecast to rise as high as 40 degrees Celsius, coupled with strong southerly and westerly winds.

"So far as the overall fire situation is concerned it's a mixed bag of good news and some not quite so good news," Rural Fire Service Commissioner Phil Koperberg told a news conference.

"Much containment has been achieved over the past 36 hours... tenuous containment, and those containment lines will be severely tested if temperatures go up, if the humidity comes down and if wind velocities increase."

The break in the harsh summer weather helped more than 5,000 weary firefighters establish firebreaks and backburning operations to starve the fires of fuel.

The bush fires wrecked Christmas celebrations across New South Wales in the worst outbreak since 1994 when four people died.

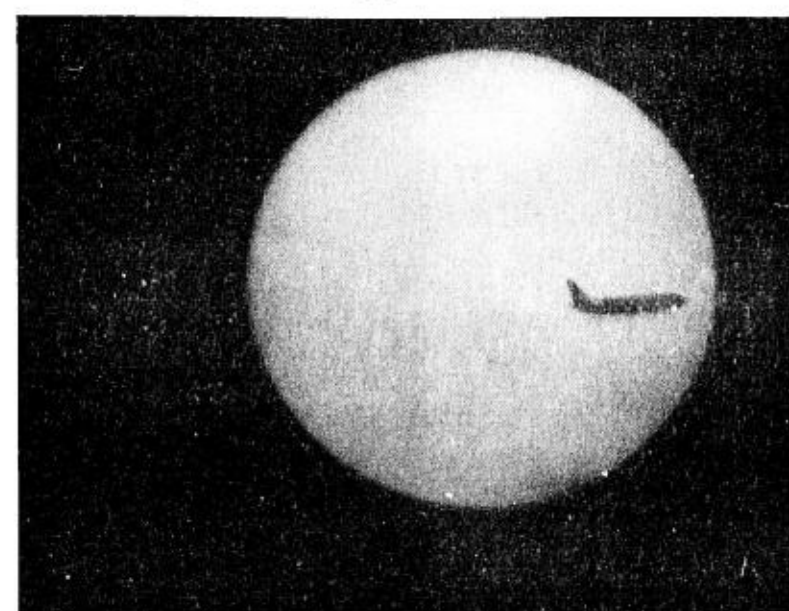
The fires, nearly half of which have been blamed on arson, have destroyed at least 150 homes but there have been no reports of death or serious injury. The fire services estimate that so far over 11,000 homes have been saved from the flames.

Officials estimated that fires were burning unchecked on fronts totaling about 600 km and one massive 30 km fire, which has been burning out of control for the past week, was only a few kilometers from towns in the Blue Mountains national park area.

Officials called on the public to conserve water.

State Fire Brigade spokesperson Ian Krimmer asked residents in affected areas to alert fire crews if they had swimming pools in their gardens so that they could be drained of water.

A special "Sky Crane" helicopter, which carries 9,000 liters of water, has been shipped to Sydney to fight the fires. Another 500 fire fighting personnel and 100 vehicles from other states will arrive over the weekend.



A PLANE passes in front of the setting sun which glows hazy from the effects of the bushfires around Sydney Dec. 28. **Reuters**

Police suspect that up to 40 of the more than 100 fires ravaging the state were started deliberately and have set up a special task force to investigate arson.

The fires have blackened tens of thousands of hectares, killed thousands of sheep and cut road and rail links along with power supplies to about

12,000 properties. Dozens of firefighters have been treated for smoke inhalation.

The Insurance Disaster Response Organization said more than 1,000 claims for property damage have been received with insurance costs now estimated at \$25.39 million compared with \$28.44 million in 1994. **Reuters**

US magistrate refuses to release 'shoe bomber'

BOSTON—A British man accused of trying to detonate his explosives-laden shoes on a transatlantic flight was refused bail Friday, as US authorities asked Holland for information on a claim he bought the explosives in Amsterdam.

US federal magistrate Judith Dein refused to free Richard Reid, a 28-year-old Muslim, but left open the possibility of later release.

A spokesperson for the public prosecutor in Amsterdam said that a request for "an exchange of information" had arrived from the United States, after Reid told FBI investigators he purchased the explosive material in Amsterdam.

"We are putting a team together to investigate it," he said.

Reid, charged with intimidation and interfering with a flight crew, sat stooped and silent in a bright orange prison jumpsuit and sandals throughout the detention and probable cause hearing Friday, shackled at the wrists and ankles.

The charges carry 20-year jail terms. No additional charges were filed at Friday's hearing.

Assistant US Attorney Colin Owyang said that because Reid had no known relatives or friends in the United States, had "double-digit convictions"

in Britain and had "no verifiable address anywhere in the world," he posed a serious flight risk and should therefore be refused release.

Reid's court-appointed lawyer Tamar Birekhead asked at the hearing's outset that her client's restraints be removed, but the request was denied.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Margaret Cronin, the only witness called Friday, said Reid's explosive shoes constituted a "functioning, improvised explosive device," that could have seriously damaged the aircraft if detonated.

Reid allegedly tried to set fire to his sneakers Saturday 90 minutes into an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami that was diverted to Boston with F-15 fighter jet escorts following the incident.

All 197 passengers and crew aboard the plane at the time were evacuated safely on arrival in Boston. Cronin boarded the plane to arrest Reid and co-wrote the affidavit in support of the criminal complaint against him.

Pressed by the prosecutor to define a "functioning, improvised explosive device," Cronin said investigation of Reid's shoes at an FBI laboratory in Washington, DC indicated that they were a "home-made bomb." **AFP**

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of the country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 19°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 21° Lo 11°
Yuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 15°
Laosag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 18°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 18°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 19°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 21°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 22°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/12/30/01

ROUNDUP

Railways to be upgraded

DAVAO CITY—Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said the Philippine National Railways will undergo major upgrading and rehabilitation as part of the government's transportation modernization program. Alvarez said the PNR lines that link northern and southern Luzon have already deteriorated in the past years. The PNR started operating in the 1940s. He said rehabilitation work on the national railway system will start in 2006.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Crackdown vs vendors

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—City hall officials have started a crackdown against vendors involved in the illegal sale of firecrackers and pyrotechnics here. The order came after the Permits and Licenses Division of the City Mayor's Office here received information about the proliferation of vendors selling firecrackers and pyrotechnics without licenses. On Thursday, a composite team from the police's Special Weapons and Tactics team and the Civil Security Unit seized some P200,000 worth of assorted firecrackers and pyrotechnics from illegal vendors at the city public market.

Aquiles Z. Zonia, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cop tagged as robbery chief

DAVAO CITY—A ranking police officer was tagged as the mastermind and financier of a big-time robbery gang. Alex Antona, a member of a robbery gang detained at the Davao City Jail, alleged that Insp. Gerardo Diamante Jr., assigned with the police community relations office of the Davao del Sur provincial police, was coddling criminals and was even giving them money for their operations. Antona said he was also irked by Diamante's continued failure to give him his share from a robbery in 1998. The police officer denied the allegations and said he was willing to be put under investigation. Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gloria asked to certify urgent terraces rescue bill

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, Benguet—Ifigao Rep. Solomon Chungalao is asking President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia to certify as urgent a bill that would provide P100 million to rehabilitate the decaying Cordillera rice terraces.

Chungalao sponsored House Bill 4002 that seeks to create an Ifigao Terraces Authority, which, he said, is to be patterned after "autonomous, self-liquidating state agencies like the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority."

He said he rushed the measure before he went to Helsinki, Finland, to participate in the annual summit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization there.

The Unesco meeting reviewed and remanded the centuries-old terraces to its list of endangered sites. This was seen as a "wake-up call" to the Philippine government and as a signal to draw badly needed foreign donors, Chungalao said.

He claimed that the Filipino delegation to the Unesco meeting lobbied for the terraces' inclusion in the endangered list to get financial support for their restoration and upkeep.

Chungalao said the government failed to provide its counterpart commitment when the terraces were inscribed six years ago by Unesco as a World Heritage site.

But he said the biggest error committed by his predecessors in Ifigao and the defunct Ifigao Terraces Commission had been their inability to explore international funds attached to or servicing the net-

works of Unesco.

Chungalao said the measure would not countermand a proposed review of the country's commitments to the World Heritage Commission.

The review would audit government financial allocations to the terraces that date back to 1995 to provide Unesco data about government accomplishments in Ifigao.

Chungalao said Unesco has a stand-by fund for a comprehensive clinical study of the terraces. "An initial \$75,000 can be released if we apply for it," he said.

"But I am not about to discuss what we have come across so far. I want to start fresh, and stop pointing fingers, although I will not hesitate to use this data against (politicians) who still fail to exert their efforts in rescuing the terraces," he added.

He admitted that the measure would

immediately fill up an impending bureaucratic vacuum should a Malacañang review committee terminate several commissions overseeing World Heritage sites in the Philippines.

These agencies include the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force, which replaced the Ifigao Terraces Commission under the Estrada administration.

The fate of Batanes, which has a pending application for World Heritage inscription, may depend on how the government responds to the terraces within six months until Unesco's pre-scheduled June conference.

"That is how short a timeframe we have to make these changes. But I don't think that the President will even scrap the Banaue Task Force now that the terraces are in danger. Perhaps, we may hear about Batanes soon," Chungalao said.

Bohol police alert raised for firecracker violators

BY CHITO FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police director, has ordered all policemen in the province to go on a heightened alert in anticipation of possible violations of the firecracker ban on New Year's Eve.

Policemen in the province will be visible during the entire celebration where the practice of exploding firecrackers has been experienced.

Police authorities again urged the community to actively participate in ensuring a peaceful observance of the New Year.

"If the community (does) not cooperate, we will not achieve the peaceful celebration such as what happened last Christmas Eve," said Supt. Louie Oppus, Tagbilaran police director.

A similar call for cooperation from the public was made by Insp. Magdaleno Mendez, Bohol PNP operations officer.

"We appeal to the people to cooperate by not using big and even small firecrackers,"

Mendez said.

Oppus said he has ordered his men to practice the same vigilance that they displayed in their watch during the Christmas Eve.

"There will be police visibility and round-the-clock monitoring," Oppus said.

Tagbilaran's Christmas celebration was generally peaceful. It was marred by only one incident, when a man reported to the police that he was injured on the head by a stray bullet.

Reynaldo Rejas, 34, a resident of Calceta Street here, said a bullet believed fired by a .45 caliber revolver pierced the roof of his house and grazed his head when he was about to retire for the night about 12:30 a.m.

Oppus said they are pursuing the case to determine the identity of the suspect who fired the gun.

Oppus said his men have confiscated a still undetermined amount of firecrackers from various vendors in separate operations.

"We immediately soaked them in water so they can no longer be used," Oppus added.

No Xmas parties for Camiguin towns

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—While the world celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ with merrymaking on Dec. 25, officials and employees of Camiguin provincial government and of the island's five towns attended to other urgent matters.

Gov. Pedro Romualdo told the INQUIRER that instead of partying, the local governments in Camiguin focused their attention on rehabilitating the victims of the tragedy that struck the island on Nov. 7.

"We cannot afford to hold merry-making (activities) when we have to face the difficulties of rehabilitating the victims. But Christmas is always in our hearts and I believe what we are doing now is a manifestation of that Christmas where we prioritized the flash flood victims," Romualdo said.

He said that because of efforts from officials and employees, the province is now ready to build at least 30 houses for Mahinog town alone.

Mahinog was where most of the close to 200 killed by a powerful

twister and flash flood at the height of typhoon Nanang came.

"The province can only provide the materials for the housing rehabilitation. We are asking them to find their places since we cannot afford to buy lots for them in order to start building their houses. I am begging them to move on now instead of just sitting down while waiting for the food assistance we are giving them," Romualdo said.

He said one of the problems besetting the rehabilitation effort is the unwillingness on the part of some residents to use some of the evacuation centers as their temporary homes.

Romualdo said surviving victims in Mahinog refuse to stay at the municipal gymnasium, where dead bodies were brought at the height of the retrieval operations last month.

Most of the survivors fear being haunted by the spirits of those who died in the tragedy. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

The Visayas: High hopes, shattered expectations

BY EDRA L. BENEDICTO
AND IRENE R. SINO CRUZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

(First of three parts)

CEBU CITY—A New Year normally begins with people getting busy planning for the year ahead. But there was nothing normal about the start of the Year 2001. Visayans, like

Negros Oriental. Six died in the ambush—mayoral candidate Jose Cardenas, then the vice mayor, his younger sister, Jessica, a reelectionist councilor under her brother's ticket, and four of their supporters.

Other incidents attributed to heated political rivalries also carried a high death toll: 14 people killed from late March up to Election Day. Among them was the slaying of Jesus Sibya, a mayoral candidate of San Joaquin in southern Iloilo, who died of wounds in the head in the early morning of May 11 from bullets allegedly fired by his rival, reelectionist mayor Sebastian Serag, who led a group of armed men that stormed Sibya's headquarters at the town proper.

In the aftermath of these election-related crimes, two grieving women stood out and were thrust into the political limelight. Judith Cardenas, 49, an erstwhile homemaker in Negros Oriental, and Daisy Sibya, 48, a banker in Iloilo City, took over the candidacies of their slain husbands. Today, both are mayors—Judith in Canlaon City and Daisy in San Joaquin.

Economic woes

By mid-year and up to the end of the year, however, the events of the May elections faded from the Visayas' memory as a more pressing matter occupied their attention: economics.

The year 2001 started with promise for Central Visayas as the business sector welcomed the change in the national leadership.

But all expectations came to naught when several factors—ranging from the spate of kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists and criminal groups, the Sept. 11 World Trade Center bombing, the huge drop in demand for electronics, the region's top export product—resulted in decline in exports and investments.

Contrary to what happened when the currency crisis hit Southeast Asia, the economy of Central Visayas slowed down due to these and other factors.

This time, exports and tourism, the two major contributors to the region's economy during the Asian currency crisis, failed to deliver and instead registered a decline for the first time in many years.

Central Visayas exports started to decline as early as the first quarter of the year as global demand for electronics products went down, National Eco-



DAVIDE

FILE PHOTO

nomic Development Authority regional director Romeo Escandor said.

Electronics account for the bulk of the region's exports that reached only \$2.125 billion in 2001, down from \$2.152 of the same period last year, Escandor said citing a Neda report.

Exports from the Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ) II and Cebu Ports grew by 84.24 percent and 2.96 percent, respectively, for the first three quarters of this year. The exports from New Cebu Township, another economic zone in the municipality of Naga, also went up from \$4.228 million to \$11.983.

But the increase in exports from these three zones could not cover for the drop of exports from MEZ I, the West Cebu Industrial Park and the Dumaguete Park. All three registered decline in exports ranging from 13.57 percent (for MEZ I) to 87.68 percent (Dumaguete Park).

Travel alert

The region's tourism industry

had a better start but foreign arrivals dipped by 2.21 percent in the third quarter.

The Japanese travel advisory placing Cebu on alert level 2 badly hit the region's tourism sector. Japan is the region's top market, accounting for about 40 percent of foreign arrivals.

For the first time, even Shangri-la's Mactan Island Resort reported a drop in occupancy rate as Japanese tour agencies were banned from selling group tours to the Philippines.

To wean away the sector from too much dependence on the Japanese market, hotels and travel agencies have intensified the promotion of Cebu and other destinations in the region in other countries such as South Korea and the People's Republic of China (PROC).

The number of South Korean tourists continued its growth that started last year. During the first three quarters this year, South Ko-

rean arrivals rose by 198 percent.

The Philippine Airlines also started chartered flights to Shenzhen in the PROC, a market that is expected to grow with the presence of a Philippine consular office there.

Department of Tourism regional director Patria Aurora Roa also started urging the tourism sector to start looking at the domestic market to make up for the worldwide travel slump.

The airline sector did not also fare well since passengers and cargo dropped this year although the number of flights increased. The number of domestic, international and general aviation flights rose by 71.12 percent in the third quarter but the passenger load and cargo volume declined by 1.98 percent and 14.39 percent, respectively.

Investments down

Planned investments also registered a decline despite an increase in the number of newly registered corporations.

On a January to September comparison, the Securities and Exchange Commission-registered investments went down by 5.97 percent while the Board of Investments-registered projects dipped by 72.74 percent.

"The January-September performance in the new business names registrations with the Department of Trade and Industry proved to be the only bright spot in planned investments," Escandor said.

Start-up capital for firms with new business name registrations rose by almost 18 percent from P6.9 billion in 2000 to P8.1 billion this year.

Agriculture registered growth during the first three quarters of 2001.

Palay production went up by 3.2 percent with Cebu and Siquijor contributing the biggest growth at 15.76 percent and 12.79 percent, respectively. The production of both white and yellow corn grew by 17.37 percent and 18.28 percent, respectively.

Double digit

As of the July 2001 labor force survey, the region's employment picture also appeared bleak as the unemployment rate remained double-digit. The survey done by the National Statistics Office showed that the unemployment rate went down to 10.5 percent in July from 15.5 percent in April.

"Central Visayas was among the seven regions that posted double-digit unemployment rate for July,"

Escandor said.

The number of workers retrenched due to economic reasons rose by 69 percent to 7,906 this year from only 4,674 last year.

Most of the retrenched workers came from manufacturing firms in the cities of Cebu and Mandaue, said Escandor.

Inflation rate from January to October 2001 also increased at 7.8 percent, higher by one percent than the 6.8 percent inflation rate a year ago.

While prices of food, beverage and tobacco remained stable, prices for housing and repairs, services and miscellaneous items increased by an average of 2 percent.

Prospects

However, the 2002 prospects for Central Visayas are not as bleak since the export sector is expected to recover by the latter half of 2002.

Glenn Westerman, president of the Mactan Export Processing Zone Chamber of Exporters and Manufacturers, noted that firms at the zone expect recovery by second quarter of 2002.

Companies at the zone focused on cutting down expenses without resorting to retrenchment of workers to maintain operations until the economy recovers, he said.

For example, Lexmark Philippines, which Westernman heads, still continues to implement its expansion plan to prepare for the recovery expected by May 2002.

The Neda also said that the export sector would see improvement only in the latter half of 2002 due to the continuing slowdown of the global electronics market.

The recovery of the export sector will also depend on the recovery of the economies of the United States and Japan, the top market of Central Visayas.

Exporters also have to contend with competition from the PROC with its recent entry to the World Trade Organization.

Philexport Cebu president Allan Suarez said exporters have to identify the niche where they could be competitive in order to survive the Chinese threat.

The region's tourism industry may also recover from the slump if Cebu continues to attract conventions and meetings, both domestic and international.

Successful negotiations between the Philippines and South Korea for a new air service agreement would also benefit Central Visayas since the Cebu-Seoul run is doing better than the Manila-Seoul flights of Philippine Airlines.

Since the Japanese government has lowered the travel advisory to level one, Roa said, the Japanese market would continue to be a major source of arrivals. (Tomorrow: Western Visayas yearend)

US bombing attacks trigger slump in firecracker industry

BOCAUE, Bulacan—Shaken by the Sept. 11 bombing attacks on the United States, manufacturers in the province are producing only a minimal supply of firecrackers and pyrotechnic products for the New Year revelry.

After the terrorist attacks in the US, most businessmen have become reluctant to invest in firecracker manufacturing, fearing that more explosions could worsen worldwide peace and bring more economic problems, Victorino de la Cruz, president of the Bocaue Solid Group of Manufacturers and Dealers, said.

"We are supposed to have massive production of firecrackers but most capitalists got scared of the terrorist attacks in the US. We produce few items now be-

cause people might not buy our products," he told the INQUIRER.

He said because of the terrorist attacks, most capitalists invested only 30 to 50 percent of their capital in the production of firecrackers for the New Year celebration.

"If (the businessmen) had P50,000 to P100,000 capital last year, they only shelled out P30,000 to P70,000 this year," he noted.

Another reason for the low production of firecrackers here is the high fees imposed by the local government and the police on manufacturers.

Manufacturers here are paying P2,500 for their business permit. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Probe on sunken boat ordered

BACOLOD CITY—Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas Rene Villa yesterday ordered the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) here to investigate reports that the MV Ivan Blue that sank Wednesday in the waters off E.B. Magalona town in Negros Occidental was overloaded.

This developed as the body of the one two missing persons was found early yesterday in Barangay Tuburan, E.B. Magalona.

The body of Editha Villarmia, 59, was found in the shoreline of the coastal village, according to the E.B. Magalona police.

The Coast Guard was still searching for her daughter, Cherry Belle Villarmia, 17, who along with her mother was reported missing when the boat sank after it was battered by heavy waves.

Villa said he directed the PCG to find out if all the passengers were listed in the manifest because of conflicting reports as to the number of people who were on board the ferry when it sank.

The E.B. Magalona police said it had accounted for 32 survivors but the Negros Occidental Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported that 44 persons were rescued, while the Coast Guard reported 33 survivors.

The PCG office in Western Visayas has yet to come up with the exact number of victims, both rescued and missing. The passenger's manifest was at the PCG office in Barangay Culasi, Ajuy, 91 km north of Iloilo City.

Relatives of the boat's passengers who visited radio sta-

tions in Iloilo claimed there could have been more passengers than what was listed in the manifest.

Radio reports said the boat's skipper, Joseph Jao, allowed more passengers on board the ferry, which has a capacity of 30 persons.

Petty Officer 2 Ruberto Superano of the PCG said the boat was not overloaded because it was off the peak season for traveling. Superano said he checked the boat and cleared it to sail.

MB Ivan Blue, built in 1991, is owned by Lorda Ignacio of E.B. Magalona. It has a 4-DR5 for engine and was dry-docked for repairs every year. According to its registration paper, it has two life rafts, 35 life jackets for adults and six for children.

The ferry sank in the waters between Banate town in Iloilo and E.B. Magalona town in Negros Occidental at around 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

The ill-fated MB Ivan Blue left Banate town, 54 km from Iloilo City, around 9 a.m. and was at some three nautical miles from Barangay Tumuntong, E.B. Magalona when seawater got into a leak in the boat. The crew of six tried to plug the hole but failed to save the boat from sinking.

Authorities learned of the sinking when one of the boat's passengers, Chief Insp. Inocencio Capuno, called up his unit, the 6th Philippine National Police Regional Mobile Group based in Negros Occidental, from his mobile phone. *Carla P. Gomez and Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Pentagon leader killed in offensive

COTABATO CITY—One of the five leaders of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group was reportedly killed during the intense military offensive against loyalists of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari in Maguindanao.

Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamko, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Datu Odin Sinsuat town, said reports indicated that Tahir Alonto, who was responsible for the abduction of four Chinese nationals working in a government irrigation dam in North Cotabato, was among those killed as of Saturday.

"But we are still confirming this report, we have to have the body of Alonto," Kyamko added.

If Alonto were indeed killed, the Pentagon's faction in Central Mindanao would at least be crippled, Kyamko said.

"Many of them were killed and many are still missing," he said.

The military launched an assault in Sultan sa Barongis town on Wednesday after some 200 followers of Misuari simultaneously attacked at least four military detachments.

As the renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front were moving toward the town center, the military launched air assaults that lasted until Thursday.

It was during the military assault that verified information came in that Alonto's group merged with Misuari's loyalists led by commanders Garry and Duma.

"Pursuit operations are still ongoing... we know we could not recover bodies of slain kidnapers but we are pretty sure a big group of kidnapers were hit by rockets," Kyamko told Radio dxMS here.

In Cagayan de Oro City, the military on Friday confirmed the arrest of one of the kidnapers of Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, 4th Infantry Division commander said that troops from the 26th Infantry Battalion, who are pursuing Pierantoni's kidnapers, arrested the suspect hiding in Tunnel 51 in Sultan Naga Dimaporo on Wednesday.

"We will not stop hounding the suspects to show them that we are not taking them lightly," Dagudag said of the military operations in Lanao del Sur.

The offensive was launched after Pierantoni was sighted in the boundaries of Sultan Gumander and Sultan Naga Dimaporo towns and in the vicinity of Lake Dapao. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Butch D. Enero, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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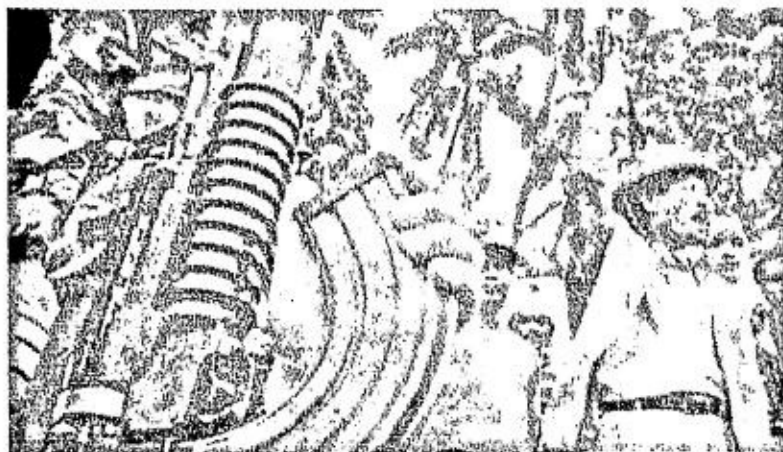
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JUN BANDAYREL, Editor in Chief NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Sowing the seeds of a new Moro war



NUR Misuari promises a new "democratic" fight during the 5th Bangsamoro National Congress in Silangkan, Parang, Jolo, Sulu. VAL HANDUMON

BY ALEXANDER M. YOUNG
Silangkan, Sulu

IT WAS here, almost two months ago, at the grounds of a makeshift bamboo camp nestled on the slopes of Bud Biyahan, some 20 kilometers from Jolo, where the embers of an emerging second Moro revolution first glowed.

A motley assemblage of rag-tag fighters, idealistic mujahideens, armed peasants, Moro technocrats, clueless adventurists, and alleged Abu Sayyaf bandits converged in this mountainous stronghold of Nur Misuari, erstwhile chieftain of the Moro National Liberation Front, to seek new motivation in the fiery rhetoric of their "Maas" (elder, wise old man) who organized a series of meetings which culminated in the 5th Bangsamoro People's Assembly

held here.

A resentful Misuari rose to the stage that Sunday afternoon on Nov. 4, embittered by what he saw as the deceit of the Philippine government and the betrayal of his most trusted brothers in the MNLF's central committee that sacked him as chair.

"I could see before my eyes that bedrock of peace on the basis of autonomy is no longer there," he told the crowd, which only waited for the right

cue to roar "Allah-hu Akbar!"

Many of those who came, like Abang Bakkaal, a veteran of the Mindanao war of the '70s, thought this was just a typical day to posture and show off their arms, as they do whenever the Maas was in town. After all, Misuari's rhetoric was nothing but typical and familiar. Little did he and others know the desperation in their Maas who would soon send his armed legion to bomb the main Army camp in Jolo town, a futile effort to challenge the government's might.

"It's very narrow now, very, very narrow option left for us. Prepare in case we are provoked," Misuari said, amidst claims the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, led by former rival Hashim Salamat, promised to fight with him.

The MILF until the late '70s was

part of the MNLF, but Salamat, then Misuari's vice chair, decided to form another group in pursuit of what he termed was the appropriate revolution for the Moro people.

Misuari promised his new fight would be "democratic," saying he was hopeful that a broader alliance for independence "through democratic means" could finally be forged with the MILF.

"They are waiting all over the Islamic world for this. They have been urging us. They have been urging me. I think this is the most important development at this time. The important thing, I think, is there should be a fundamental realignment of forces here. And this realignment involves the most powerful and most influential revolutionary movement in the whole (of) Mindanao, if not the whole country," Misuari said.

Nothing new

But even to press people who covered the assembly, Misuari was mouthing nothing new. He repeatedly accused the Philippine government of "abandoning its responsibility" to fulfill the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement and of turning Mindanao into "a zone of war." He said the government "undertook something that tended to exacerbate the situation."

"Instead of making our autonomous region a zone of peace as was proclaimed by them, it has in fact become a zone of war and a killing field of sorts," he added in a press briefing.

But everyone knew Misuari's angst. Here was a man soured by the "betrayal" of his comrades and stripped of political and financial powers he comfortably wielded as governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao and chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development.

He began to blame others for his fall, including the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Philipinas (PDSP), which he described as "the unofficial party of the Catholic Church," for "manipulating" and "demolishing" the peace agreement. He earlier hinted that PDSP national chair Norberto Gonzales, who is President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on special concerns, was behind the plot to oust him from the MNLF leadership.

The man who led the "betrayal" was Dr. Parouk Hussin, Misuari's minister of foreign affairs and leader of the 15-man MNLF central committee that ousted him as chair early this year.

Winner

Hussin, the President's adviser on Muslim affairs at that time, was also the government's candidate for ARMM governor in the Nov. 26 elections, where he won. President Macapagal-Arroyo, and even the influential Organization of the Islamic Conference, recognized Hussin as the legitimate leader of the MNLF.

Misuari, by most accounts and in the government's eye, was becoming "irrelevant."

But not in Silangkan, hometown of his youngest wife Tarhata. Here, Misuari was not just a force to reckon with. To his people, he was "president of the Bangsamoro Republik" and "datu."

And toward the end of the 5th Bangsamoro Assembly, the "wise old man" made a classic Misuari warning: "You cannot count this man out!"

The government and the military, of course, were unfazed by the Moro leader's threats of war.

Malacañang officials discounted that Misuari, who was still at that time ARMM governor, was capable of carrying out his threat.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo advised Misuari to reconsider his threat as he no longer has a credible armed following.

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Investor confidence in full vigor

The full-throated confidence of foreign investors in the Philippines economy is palpable in the business sector.

A splendid example is Kirin Brewery's decision to invest in the Philippine brewery business. The leading Japanese firm now has a P27.9 billion investment in the San Miguel Brewery, equivalent to 15 shares of SMC's shares.

Kirin's investment will boost SMC's profitability and growth. Industry analysts said the SMC-Kirin partnership will make San Miguel the 5th biggest brewer in the world.

President Macapagal-Arroyo

has lauded Kirin's move as a welcome investment. Kirin's decision enhances the country's image as a pro-business investment.

During President Arroyo's trip to the United States last November, she also secured pledges of assistance and investments from the US government and the US private sector.

An agreement was signed with the Cerebus group to provide up to \$1 billion to support mass housing programs and corporate reinvigoration in the Philippines.

The government concluded a \$500-million agreement for the

construction of a rail system linking the three terminals at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. This will increase aviation security in the terminal complex.

We secured an investment of \$100 million for the operation of a shipbuilding and repair facility in Subic Bay which is expected to employ approximately 1,000 workers.

Under another agreement, Ford Philippines will start manufacturing cars and SUVs for the Thai and Indonesian market, with an estimated sales value of \$300 million a year.

Six Filipino companies concluded information techno-

logy agreements with US counterparts worth almost \$20 million to put up remote call centers for US-based firms.

All these are signs of growing confidence in the Philippine economy.

During her talks with the President George W. Bush, the US president agreed to work with the US Congress to provide the Philippines over \$1 billion in Generalized System of Preferences benefits.

Mr. Bush said the growth rate of quotas of US imports of textiles and apparel from the Philippines would increase by 27 percent beginning January 2002.

He announced he was seeking \$29 million from the Congress in 2002 monies to support economic growth and poverty alleviation throughout the Philippines.

He announced that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation will extend a special line of credit of \$200 million for private sector investment in the Philippines, including in the housing sector.

Presidents Arroyo and Bush agreed to work to increase American investment in the Philippines.

Mr. Bush said he was working with the US Congress to

more than double US assistance to Mindanao with a fiscal year 2002 package worth \$38 million.

Additionally, the US Trade and Development Agency will encourage the US private sector's involvement in Mindanao's infrastructure development. The TDA signed a \$302,500 grant agreement to plan the development of a solar-powered irrigation system in Mindanao.

Total US aid reached \$2 billion. Another \$2.3 billion of new investments, new multilateral packages and additional access market for a total of \$4.3 billion.

DAR's target for land reform attainable despite budget cut

The Macapagal-Arroyo administration's target of 100,000 hectares of private agricultural lands for coverage in the government's agrarian reform program each year is still attainable despite a cut in the budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

In an interview, DAR Secretary Hernani Braganza said that despite the budget cut, his department will continue to acquire compensable lands, most of which from voluntary land transfer.

Braganza said there is an option where the DAR does not have to pay the land it will acquire for land reform but will simply act as a sort of broker or conduit between the landowners and the tenants.

He expressed the hope that through this process, the DAR can still attain the target set by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July.

He pointed out that Congress cut the 2002 budget for agrarian reform by P1 billion.

Braganza also announced that he will soon launch the DAR's "Bayanihan Program" which will fast-track the acquisition of lands for distribution to tenant farmers.

The program, which Braganza will launch in Cagayan, involves the provision of farm-to-market roads and other support services to land reform beneficiaries.

Agriculture boosts economy

The strong performance of the agriculture sector was one of the key factors that kept the Philippine economy afloat in the wake of a global economic slowdown.

The agriculture sector grew by

back from the previous year's slump due to an expanded production of corn, pineapple, coffee and mango.

The President pushed for the modernization of agriculture and fisheries to win the battle against

small farmers which now amounts to P8.8 billion, with P8.7 coming from the GFIs, and only P155 million coming from the DBM.

The Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation project was inaugurated



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pushes the button that formally opens the valve of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project in Carmen, North Cotabato on September 22, signaling the start of the operations of the irrigation project. Also in photo are Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor (second from right) and Presidential Adviser for Regional Development Paul Dominguez (right). The Mal-Mar project was funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

2.9 percent during the first nine months of the year, making it the second biggest contributor - after the services sector - to the gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

The four major subsectors - crops, livestock, poultry and fishery - posted higher output levels during the first three quarters of 2001. In particular, the crops subsector bounced

poverty.

On other infrastructure projects, only P2 billion was earmarked under the proposed AFMA fund but the amount available is P3.7 billion, overshooting the benchmark by some P1.7 billion.

But the biggest chunk of funds AFMA that remains unutilized is that for credit to

in September, watering some 3,800 hectares in Mindanao. Further expansion will bring irrigation to a total of 10,840 hectares, benefiting some 4,600 farmers.

The construction and rehabilitation of national, communal and other small-scale irrigation systems have generated an additional 51,096 hectares of farm lands.

New BOI-approved investments to spur countryside development

Neglected provinces will finally have their share of economic development, with 85 percent of the P101.6 billion worth of investments approved by the Bureau of Investments (BOI) set to locate in the countryside.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, who is also the BOI chairman, said P130 billion worth of investment projects have been approved by the BOI as of the end of November.

Roxas said of the P130 billion, P101.6 billion were

approved by the BOI, representing 221 new projects, of which 85 percent will be set up in various provinces.

He said the top three investments approved by the BOI are in information and communications technology (ICT), amounting to a total of P65 billion. The investment is expected to generate 5,000 jobs.

The top investment involves the expansion of the Globe Telecom, Inc. with Singapore as its country-investor. With project cost of about P39.7 billion, the Globe Telecom

expansion program is expected to produce 2,500 jobs.

The second biggest new investment approved this year involves Smart Telecommunications. It is estimated to cost P17.1 billion and is expected to generate 1,794 jobs.

Digital Communications Philippines, Inc. is the third biggest ICT-related investment approved by the BOI this year, has a project cost of P8.2 billion and is likely to create 1,114 new jobs.

The country investor for the Digital Communications pro-

ject includes Sweden.

The United States and Australia have been named as the country-investors for the investment project approved by the BOI for the Unisys Public Sector Services Corp.

The Unisys project is estimated to cost P3.3 billion and is expected to generate some 100 new jobs.

Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc., which has a BOI-approved investment worth P2.7 billion, is expected to create 274 new jobs.

Australia is among its country-investors.

Financial institutions give RP economy high ratings

The fiscal discipline and reforms instituted by the Macapagal-Arroyo administration continue to draw positive feedback from international rating agencies.

Last October, the rating agency Fitch Ratings in London said that the Stable Outlook assigned to the Philippines' sovereign ratings of BB+ (foreign currency) and BBB- (local currency) in March 2001 remains appropriate, despite the deterioration in the external environment.

The agency said that the Stable Outlook is underpinned by three factors: a flexible exchange rate regime, combined with a still comfortable international liquidity position; modest public external financing needs of US\$2.7 billion in 2002, of which half is expected to come from official sources; diminished political risk underlined by a strong popular mandate for a government that has committed itself to fiscal discipline and reform.

Fitch said an important barometer of structural adjustment was the passage of an Omnibus Power Bill, opening the way for the privatization of the National Power Corporation (Napocor) next year, while a benign macro-economic policy

framework has been supportive of growth.

Other leading international credit rating agencies and multilateral bodies have recognized the efforts of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to stabilize and strengthen the Philippine economy.

Institutions such as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have affirmed the Philippines' credit worthiness.

On Dec. 6, the highly respected JP Morgan said:

"President Macapagal Arroyo is leading economic policy on a fundamentally better path...she and her economic team understand the importance of passing near-term milestones that signal to the market that progress is being made."

"Among these milestones, none is more important than keeping the budget deficit reined in. And on that score, the Philippines has done very well...Economic growth has also exceeded expectations."

The most recent Social Weather Stations survey gave the President a very high acceptance rating.

The influential Makati Business Club recently gave her a 'passing grade.'

GMA is one of world's top 5 leaders

President Macapagal-Arroyo was featured as one of only five world leaders in the yearend report of the prestigious Financial Times of London.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that the first installment of the report, published in the December 26 issue, had featured the President along with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The article, written by John Burton with reports from local journalist Roel Landigian, described the President as the "Iron Lady of Asia."

The Philippines, according to the Times, has emerged as one of the strongest Asian economies this year with an expected growth of 3.3 percent, "thanks to expansion in the farm and services sectors that helps balance a fall in electronics

exports." The Times said that only a few doubt the commitment of the President to solve the problem of poverty in the Philippines although she is perceived to be "a product of the privileged elite" in the country.

The President now visits shantytowns and next month, she plans a two-week "roadshow" around the poorer areas of the vast country, the article said.

The Times also said that the President "is known for her attention to detail and setting targets."

"She's relentless. She sleeps only a few hours a night and we have trouble keeping up with her. We have a sigh of relief when she goes on a holiday, although they last only a few days," the article quoted one presidential aide as saying.

Malampaya project will make RP 52% self-sufficient in energy



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads the ceremonial switch-on of the 55-B Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power project in ceremonies held on October 16 in Tabangao, Batangas. Looking on are (from left): former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Corason C. Aquino.

The \$5-billion Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power project, the largest and most important investment of its kind in the history of the Philippines, marks the beginning of a whole new industry that will provide clean and environment-friendly fuel, making the Philippines 52 percent self-sufficient in energy.

With an expected \$700 million yearly savings as a result of the natural gas project, the country is expected to earn at least \$13 million in royalties within its 20-year period of operation.

The Filipino workers' participation in the project is considered a testament to world-class skills

and the country's ability to produce first-rate work under the most demanding circumstances.

The Malampaya project, which will span decades in its entirety, is an example of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's long-term view of the country's prospects and capabilities.

In order to achieve the goal of enhancing natural gas utilization, it is the policy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to promote activities in the downstream sector by offering access to all land-based gas pipeline networks to ensure the inflow of investments in this area.

Several Japanese, Filipino,

European and Malaysia companies have already signified their interest to invest in the land-based gas pipeline network from Batangas to Manila, and eventually to Bataan.

The gas from the Malampaya well off the western island of Palawan travels 504 kilometers deep under water to a power plant in Batangas province south of Manila.

One of the three combined-cycle facilities of the 1,000-megawatt Santa Rita power plant in Tabangao town in Batangas receives the gas via a 9.5-kilometer onshore pipeline.

Operator Shell Philippines Exploration (SPEX), together with joint venture partners

Texaco Philippines and the government-owned Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corp., is responsible for building the upstream components required to extract natural gas in 3,000 meters below sea level in water depths of 850 meters, located 80 kilometers offshore Palawan.

The gas is then processed on the Malampaya platform, transported to the onshore gas plant in Batangas via a long, deep-water pipeline, for final processing and delivering to three power plants with a total generating capacity of 2,700 megawatts.

PEACE WEEK CELEBRATION

Kids deplore adults' war games

BY MARIA CECIL B. LAGUARDIA
Zamboanga City

THERE they stood a few feet in height, but with courage and hope soaring. Edzhar Sacanle Yashim, of Sarang Bangun Learning Center, one of the narrators of the presentation during the Peace Week celebration in Zamboanga City late last month, was not simply reciting from a prepared script, he was sharing with the audience the story of his life.

The son of a Moro National Liberation Front rebel who was killed in battle, Edzhar momentarily paused, for everybody to hear, that if not for the war "sana buhay pa ang tatay ko (my father could be still alive)."

Backed by the songs of Joey Ayala and Asin, Edzhar and his partner bewailed the "larong taguan na ginagawa ng mga matatanda... sa mga bundok ng Basilan at sa mga kuweba ng Afghanistan (the games of hide-and-seek that adults play... in the mountains of Basilan and the caves

of Afghanistan)."

Schoolchildren, composed of Yakans, Visayans, Tausugs and other tribes, some of them orphans of war like Edzhar, breathed life into the presentation as they translated and danced to the soulful narration. They urged adults to lay down their arms and resort to a peaceful solution of the age-old Mindanao problem pleading: "Ayaw na namin ang gulo (we have enough of war)."

According to the school's assistant principal and choreographer Noel

Lariza, the children eagerly joined the play to express their sentiments as victims of the atrocities of war.

With the historic buildings of Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) as backdrop, the children performed like their future depended on it.

Touched by the performance, Kristine of Barangay Sta. Maria, located just beside Pasonanca where the hostage taking took place, longed for the warring parties "na magbati na para matapos na ang gulo (to get back into each other's arms so war would stop)."

Kristine and her family evacuated in a nearby school during the incident. A daughter of a tricycle driver, Kristine fears for her future and is alarmed not just by the war, but also by the rising social problems her community is facing, such as rape, drug addiction and poverty.

The Peace Week's highest point was the announcement of Peace Weaver Awardees at the Garden Orchid Hotel. Fr. Angel Calvo, CMF,

chair of Peace Advocates Zamboanga (PAZ), the prime mover of the celebration along with Salam Peace Foundation and other NGOs, described the work of the awardees in his opening message as putting together a colorful and intricate tapestry, "weaving strands of peace for unity in diversity."

The awardees, presented by Zamboanga Archbishop Carmelo Morelos and Salam Peace Foundation chair Hadji Ahmad Sakaluran, were: Ms. Piang Albar, Dr. Alejandro Infante, Dr. Jose Ma. Lucas and Datu Hadji Tabujur Taupan (posthumous).

Salam secretary general, Prof. Datu Amilusin Jumaani, presented to Mohammad Alrouf Ekong the Young Peaceweaver Award.

Dr. Infante said he was surprised by the recognition and shared it with the "silent weavers of peace" out there, believing it was made possible by

"many hands and hearts."

The Taluksangay community located just a few miles from the city was



EDSHAR, left, has grown in perspective way beyond his years, experiencing early the pains of war.

Community Peaceweaver Honoree, was received "with pride" by Abdurahman Nuno, the barangay chair.

There was also an oratorical contest with the theme "Peace: Sharing the vision of unity and hope."

Eleven contestants from different schools joined the competition. Winner Anthony Montono described the Cabatangan hostage taking as "one moment of terror" that almost turned the city upside down in two days. He said he joined the contest to become "one more voice of hope."

Another contestant decried that peace is not just the "absence of war

and the silence of guns" but true unity and respect in the sea of differing ideologies and culture.

In hopelessness and futility, one contestant believed "prayer is the only weapon."

The Peace Week celebration might be marred by violence even before it started, but to the young participants, it represents the positive effort to bring peace to Mindanao for their future.

For them, "ito ang tunay na mundo ng kabataan" (this is the real world of the youth) oblivious of the conflict around because all are of God's creation, all equal and fair to His eyes.

Sowing... (From page A11)

that the MNLF integrees are by and large supportive of the Constitution, supportive of our laws, and supportive of the present administration," Romulo said.

In a radio interview, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Misuari's forces were concentrated in Sulu and in a small barangay in Zamboanga.

"The threat from Misuari is not that big," Golez said. "Most of his forces are now integrated in the military and police, and they are living good lives already."

Golez said there was no reason to doubt the loyalty of these integrees.

Southern Command chief Gen. Roy Cimatu said he was unfazed by Misuari's reported threat to link up with the MILF and resume the fight for an independent Mindanao.

"Don't dare the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Cimatu said.

But others took Misuari seriously.

"We are ready and the Armed Forces knows what he is doing and we know where his people are," said Presidential adviser Eduardo Ermita, a retired general who helped forge the peace treaty with the MNLF in 1996.

But Ms. Macapagal, who was then in Brunei attending the Asean leaders' summit, said she did not want to engage in a word war with the former MNLF chair who "played a very important role" in achieving Muslim autonomy in Mindanao.

But even before the President could return to the country, the unexpected came.

Attacks

It was dawn on Nov. 19 when mortars from camps of suspected Misuari loyalists rocked and lit the town of Jolo. Camp Teodolfo Bautista, the Army's headquarters in Sulu, was being attacked.

An Army outpost in Sapak, Indanan, and the 2nd Scout Ranger detachment were also captured by Misuari's forces. Another group surrounded the Maibung Police Station.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southcom, confirmed the skirmishes, but belittled the attack, saying it was "only a harassment."

"There was one harassment incident. But it wasn't an attack," Servando said in Zamboanga City. This time, the military had a new name for Misuari's men: the Misuari Renegade Group (MRG).

MG-520 attack helicopters and OV-10 Bronco bomber planes fired at MRG targets near the capital town of Sulu and the hinterland. But the military, which lasted two days, quickly quelled Misuari's troops. A total of 113 soldiers, civilians and Moro rebels died.

In Zamboanga City, top MNLF cadres close to Misuari admitted his loyalists attacked the military outposts, but said these were justified "reactions to a provocation" by the government.

Abdurahman Jamasali, then ARMM Interior undersecretary, told the INQUIRER: "If it is true, I cannot blame them. I think it is just a reaction by the MNLF to the government's violation of the 1996 GRP-MNLF peace agreement."

A similar incident happened in Zamboanga City that same day, where government buildings were occupied by MRG elements encamped at an ARMM-owned complex in Cabatangan barangay.

Panic-stricken residents scrambled to fetch their children from schools after more than a hundred fully-armed MRG members set up checkpoints and occupied other government-owned buildings, including a training center of the Department of Education in Cabatangan, located near the ARMM-owned complex.

Coercion

Residents from Uwak, Cabatangan, complained that the fatigue-clad armed MRG men who have been patrolling their communities, entered their homes, coerced them to evacuate, and occupied and raided residences. Some 200 residents have fled to nearby Sta. Maria and Pasonanca barangays.

Private and public schools also received threats that the MNLF would bomb major public places like the Zamboanga Metropolitan Cathedral, the Mindpro Citimall, the Fort Pilar, and bus terminals.

But Misuari by then had fled to Sabah, Malaysia, where he was arrested.

No bombings came. But a hostage crisis in Cabatangan a day after the Nov. 26 ARMM elections forever changed the perception of peace in Zamboanga.

Forces loyal to Misuari were still holding on to the Cabatangan ARMM property when the military moved in to dislodge them with an aerial attack after the ARMM elections had been successfully held. But the gunmen fought back and took hostages.

Misuari's nephew, Julhambri Misuari, leader of the MRG forces in Cabatangan, was reported to have demanded the release of his uncle, who was being held by Sabah police for illegally entering the country.

But sources close to the negotiations said the gunmen simply wanted to return to their stronghold in the nearby island of Basilan.

After some negotiations, the Misuari loyalists released all the hostages, the residents of a subdivision in Cabatangan. The MRG forces were then escorted to Panubigan, a village some 30 km from the city proper.

When the military and police moved in to clear the Cabatangan complex of booby traps, ordnance experts were able to gather an armory of government-issued and home-made explosives.

The explosives, the military said, linked the MRG to the bombing which ripped through a crowded Puericulture Center food plaza in Zamboanga.

The bomb blast killed some six people and injured scores of men, women and children.

Misuari may still be locked in an undisclosed Malaysian jail. But in Silangan, as in most other parts of Mindanao, the eventual return of Mas is still the talk of the town. The government though is not too keen on bringing him back to the Philippines, fearing he would wreak more havoc when he is here. Although it appears that the havoc Misuari is capable of doing, has already been wreaked by his minions.

So, does the government finally admit the old man rebel is still relevant?

Maybe not. But surely, the next time Misuari says, "You cannot count this man out," the government will listen.

ETO NA!

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PRIZE: THERMOS 1.4 LI. JUG

GMA	PROVINCIAL
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Is Rizal's execution photo a still from a 1912 movie?

(From page A1)

The article described how the exact place where Rizal fell was determined by four eyewitnesses to the event: Manila Mayor Tomas Earnshaw, a corporal of the 70th Regiment, and two soldiers of the Spanish volunteer corps. Dumas' picture was used to find the exact spot.

Werner Weinmann, Swiss citizen and a 30-year resident of the country, brother-in-law of Filipino patriot Jose Alejandrino, and an eyewitness to Rizal's execution, strongly disputed the genuineness of the execution picture in his letter written in Spanish to the Free Press which was printed in the Jan. 24, 1925 issue.

Absurd

Weinmann wrote: "That unique picture of Rizal's execution taken by a certain Mr. Dumas, French-Spaniard, according to your article is ABSURD. First, because this Dumas is Elzingre Dumas whom I know being another Swiss citizen, young, and whom I know never carried a camera in his life. Second, for him to have taken that supposed picture, it was necessary for him to enter the military square which was impossible, given the strict order. And third, because the soldiers which formed the military cordon and the firing squad, were all dressed in navy blue, and should appear dark, not light, as they appeared in the supposed picture."

Weinmann supplemented his letter with his own sketch of scene of the execution at the Luneta. (Fig. 2)

Extant pictures of the Luneta in 1886 (Fig. 3) or 1896 (Fig. 4) support Weinmann's belief that the Rizal execution picture was a fake. First, the Luneta from 1886 to 1896 had no trees; whereas, the execution picture shows many trees between the lampposts. Second, Weinmann's sketch and the 1886 picture show that there was a file of stones encircling the Luneta at that time but which is absent in the execution picture. The file of stones forming the curb of the Luneta then is amplified by this line from Weinmann's letter: "... Blood running to inflame with red the surface of one square meter of ground and over the stones that circled the Luneta."

Third, the lampposts in the execution picture are taller and lighter in color than the lampposts in the 1886 photograph. Being lighted by gas, the lampposts were short, and being made of iron, they should appear dark in picture.

Another argument against the picture: Could a box camera, the only camera Dumas could have used, produced

a panoramic and well defined picture as the alleged Rizal execution picture?

Wrong hat

When I related my findings casting doubts on the genuineness of the execution picture to my friend Victor Buencamino, he told me that before the war he had seen Rizal's hat and shoes enclosed in a glass case in the home of Don Leoncio Lopez, son of Narcisa Rizal, sister of the hero. The hat was not a derby and it was not black.

"At Victor's urging, I visited Mrs. Carmen Consunji, the daughter of Don Leoncio Lopez. Lola Mameng confirmed that the hat, which was destroyed during the war, was not a derby and it was not black. It was gray. The gray color could be ascribed to the bleaching of the original black by underground burial, which, however, would not affect the shape of the hat. This is another compelling proof against the authenticity of the execution picture which shows Rizal's hat as a derby."

Based on available evidence, the Rizal execution picture is a fraud, a big fraud. But then how could the existence of the picture be accounted for? That picture very likely was taken from either one of two films about Rizal produced in 1912. These films are interesting sidebars on the Rizal execution picture.

Two movies

In 1912, Harry Brown, owner of the Gaiety Theater in Ermita, teamed up with fellow American Ernest Meyer Gross, a surgeon and filmmaker, to produce a movie honoring Rizal. They hired Charles Martin of the Bureau of Science to be cameraman. Honorio Lopez, later famous publisher of the Honorio Lopez calendar, and Chananay, the best known Filipina actress then, played the hero and his mother, respectively. The finished film "Dr. Jose Rizal" was slated for showing in the Manila Grand Opera House on Aug. 24, 1912.

Unknown to them, rival film producer A. W. Yearsley, owner of Oriental Moving Pictures Company, Majestic, and Empire Theaters, was intent on making another Jose Rizal movie. Two days after Brown and Gross finished filming "Dr. Jose Rizal," Yearsley hired the same cast of the said movie and shot the Rizal execution scene at the Cementerio del Norte.

Shooting began at 10 a.m. and was finished at 3 p.m., and the movie was shown at Majestic Theater that very same evening, Aug. 23, 1912. It was a big hit, and Yearsley had another copy for showing at the Empire Theater. Incidentally, the Yearsley Rizal movie had three different titles in newspaper advertisements: "La Vida y Muerte del Gran Martir Filipino Dr. Jose Rizal," "Passion y Muerte del Dr. Jose Rizal," and "Vida y Muerte

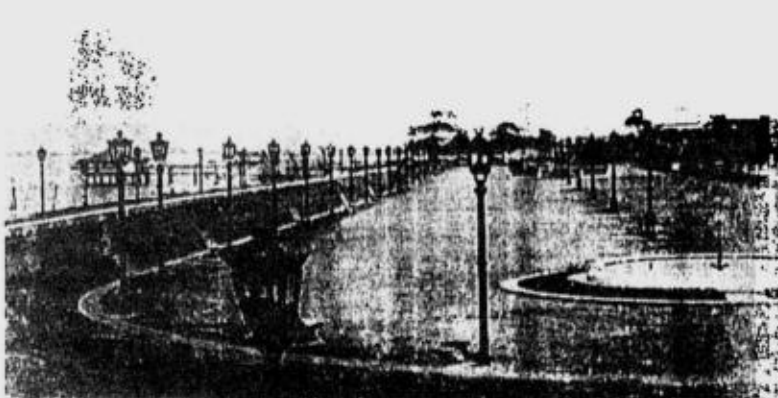


FIGURE 3: Luneta in 1896. The absence of trees which are seen in the Rizal execution picture and the presence of a stone curb which is not seen in the same picture.



FIGURE 4: A painting of the Luneta as it was in the 1890s. Note that the lampposts are shorter than those seen in the Rizal execution photo.

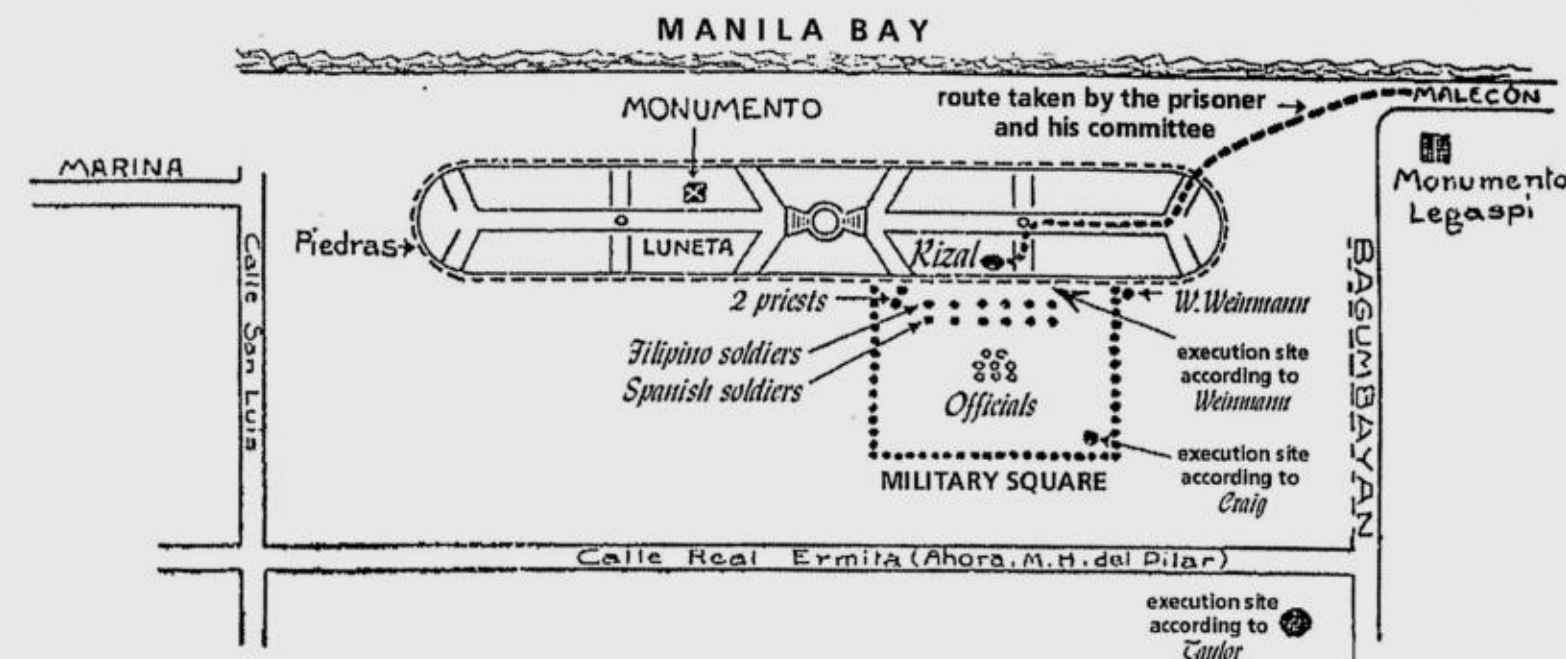


FIGURE 2: Eyewitness Wienmann's sketch of the Luneta and the execution sites, according to the different accounts. Note the stones (piedras) at the perimeter of the Luneta at the time of Rizal's execution.

del Dr. Jose Rizal." However, film historians refer to this film as "El Fusilamiento del Dr. Jose Rizal."

Brown and Gross' Rizal movie was shown on Aug. 24, 1912 at the Manila Grand Opera House. It was also a big hit. It was the better Rizal movie, but Yearsley made the bigger money.

At this point the readers would be asking, "If the picture of Rizal's execution was not the real thing and was taken from a movie, why then did nobody complain about the fakery?"

Movie advertisements then did not carry pictures in newspaper ads; thus, nobody noticed the passing of a fake picture for the real McCoy. Besides, Filipinos love to embellish our heroes.

Witness our glossing of the big faults of Quezon, Bonifacio, MacArthur, Romulo, etc. . . . The execution picture only served to enhance the legend of Rizal.

Scholar's flaws

Central to the acceptance of the authenticity of Rizal's execution picture is the reputation of Austin Craig's scholarship.

Indeed, there was no more ardent and diligent investigator of Rizal's life than Craig. However, Craig admired Rizal so much that he may have taken liberties with the facts in his Rizal book. Glaring examples will now be cited to show this point.

Craig wrote that Rizal completely

turned around after the volley and landed on his back his shut eyes facing the sun. He contradicted Retana and eyewitnesses who either wrote or told that Rizal tried but failed to turn around because death was instantaneous.

In his last book printed in 1940, Farthest Westing: A Philippine Footnote, Craig wrote that the Rizal execution picture was taken by a Frenchman he did not name, which contradicted his statement on the origin of the picture in the 1924 article "I Saw Rizal Shot."

If it is true as Craig claimed that Dumas dug out his hidden Rizal execution picture when the Americans came, then that picture would have been circulating in the press in the early days of

American rule. But I have not seen that picture in books about the Philippines and Rizal published between 1900 and 1910 which I encountered in my research.

The earliest use of that picture I found was in the last 1912 issue of the Free Press. Craig's Rizal book printed in 1913 also carried the picture. However, Retana's Vida y Escritos del Dr. Jose Rizal published in 1907 does not have it.

If that Rizal execution picture had already been released when the Americans came, as Craig implied in his writing, Retana would have included it in his Rizal book.

Is the Rizal execution picture real or not? Judge for yourself.

Icons when radio was radio

(From page A1)

with a splice of anecdotes gathered from years of entertaining.

There is no mention of hard news, no commentaries or politician-bashing, no talk of bad stuff, just a trip down memory lane for those who are old enough to remember and a slow, lazy, delicious Sunday for those who need a break.

Time-tested

"It's a time-tested recipe," Mercado says. "We liked what we did then, and we still like what we do. We apply all our expertise over the last years into what we do today."

San Diego, who was known as the seductress of "All Night Stand" and "This I Like" in the late 1950s, says the group offers "the kind of music that people should hear" amid the muddled political issues and economic recession that have left a not-so-peaceful imprint on the consciousness of Filipinos.

"The realities of the times are so harsh already, we don't have to make them worse," says Lapira, who used to do the newscast for ABC 5. "We just try to make it light, which is very difficult."

Reaching out to youth

The comebacking hosts consider the new program a great opportunity to reach out to the youth, who were not as lucky to be serenaded by Johnny

Mathis' "Misty," Matt Monro's "The Nearness of You," Frank Sinatra's "Young at Heart," Ella Fitzgerald's "Isn't It Romantic" and Tony Bennett's "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

San Diego recalls a phone call made by a 17-year-old boy from Tawi-Tawi during her 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. slot several weeks ago asking for the title of an old song and its artist. The song turned out to be "Never" by Toni Arden.

"You see, even the young ones are interested because these songs are precious, and we hope to bring this kind of music to them," San Diego says during an interview with the INQUIRER at the Holiday Inn, together with Ilarde, Mercado and Lapira. Aniceto was vacationing in the United States while Gorospe could not make it to the interview.

Ilarde calls it "divine spark" when out of the blue, while facing his computer, he realized the need to bring back the old standards and their players on the air. He immediately called the five and broached the idea of getting together for a show.

Surprisingly, Ilarde says, not one took a moment's hesitation to jump in. A friend of Ilarde's, who is a director of the Philippine Broadcasting System, quickly patronized the show.

LA can wait

Ilarde's brainchild stopped San Diego from going back to Los Angeles on

Sept. 4 to reestablish her career there. The lady just could not say "no" to her old buddies.

"Anlaks ng mga mokong na ito sa akin eh," San Diego says.

San Diego, who has been hobnobbing with celebrities since she flew to Los Angeles in 1969, was carving out a niche for herself abroad as a television co-host with the likes of the current honorary Hollywood mayor Johnny Grant. She was the only Filipino and announcer who was given a talk show in KJOY, a radio station in posh Beverly Hills which carried "Conversations with Jo San Diego."

But San Diego decided to come home to be with her mother, the late Justice Lourdes San Diego, in 1996 and was eventually wooed by Ramon Jacinto to stay in the country and do a program on his station.

Gorospe, a spokesperson of the Marcos family, had recently resigned as media officer of Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. when he took up Ilarde's offer of the 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. slot in the "Golden Years Special."

Sinatraphile

The savvy Mercado, on the other hand, plays emcee in the bingo socials at the Holiday Inn or in beauty pageants when he's not doing Sinatra, a personal favorite of his, in the 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. slot.

Only Lapira, who recently suffered

from a heart attack, initially had reservations about going back to radio after 30 years of absence in the medium. He, too, easily gave in and is now on the 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. slot.

"We're lucky to have been part of the so-called pillars of radio. We are survivors, and now we feel that we have transcended time and style," says Ilarde, who graduated to television and later, to politics as senator and assemblyman, after his "Napakasakit, kuya Eddie" days.

Ilarde has suspended his taping of Kahapon Lamang International, which he produces for Filipinos overseas who are famished for news and the familiar voice from home, to concentrate on the "Golden Years Special."

First time

This is the first time that the six renowned disc jockeys, the last batch trained in old-school radio, are working together for one station.

The hosts of the "Golden Years Special" play from their own collection of old records, which they are copying into compact discs for better sound bytes. Some avid followers, like singer-composer Jose Mari Chan, contribute to their collections.

Chan admits to being a big fan of San Diego, so much so that he used to take his radio with him to the beach and listen to her old shows when he was younger.

Authority

"We claim authority over songs because we have entertained two generations of listeners," says Mercado, who along with the rest will be coming out with a book on the history of radio and the golden years "soon."

The flexibility of these people, whose careers have spanned at least 30 years, came from the rigid training that they received from the likes of radio legends Cris de Vera, Tony Romero and Rey Cordova and Rey Oliver.

The six, who all started in their teens, were bred in the golden years of radio, when radio was what television and radio are today, with the disc jockeys enjoying movie-star billing and treats in popular lounges.

Mercado says DJs then were not just a slew of voices but personalities who are identifiable by listeners the moment they turn on the handle and hear the off-hand witty remarks that changed the pace of radio shows.

Who's who

Ilarde was always Kuya Eddie; Mercado the Top 10 hits man touted for his precision in overlapping music; Lapira, with his "howdy doo dee cats and chicks;" Aniceto of Kalatog Pinggan and San Diego, the original bedroom voice and all-night companion.

This was the class of DJs who got memos for singing along with the records or for mispronouncing a single

word. The vintage class who spoke very good English without the trying-hard-to-be-American twang, who gave accurate time checks and actually made sense and knew their music and what they were talking about.

"The challenge was to be versatile, not just be a voice. We had to do it in such a way that people will visualize what we're saying," says Mercado, adding there was not so much competition as camaraderie among DJs then.

Changes

The closure of media outlets during the Marcos dictatorship changed the face of radio forever. News was controlled and managed, even the type of music played was subject to approval. After the Marcos regime, the public was starved for news and current events, paving the way for the emergence of news and more news and public affairs programs on radio and TV.

Two Edsa revolts, three administrations and a hundred pop boy bands later, old radio and the classics are making a much-needed comeback.

"It's like seeing the remakes of an old movie and then going back to the original hit," Mercado says.

The original

"Somehow, the original has its own catch. We're like vintage wine, and if people want a sample of how radio was treated before, this is it," he says and smiles.

It's time for dual citizenship, says Guingona

(From page A1)

with bagoong or patis. They love a fine tune, strum a guitar with gusto or sing an old Kundiman—characteristically pang-romansa. They are also typically devoted and go to church on Sundays to keep the faith.

They were born Filipino with an innate desire to remain Filipino. Most have dreams of coming back and retiring here. That is why most of our overseas Filipinos want dual citizenship.

Those who have resided abroad for some time have understandably acquired citizenship in the places where they now live and work. But at the same time, they want to remain Filipino citizens.

This and the quest for absentee voting are the goals they invariably ask for. They are valid aspirations whose time has come.

Dual citizenship is possible. Many nations recognize it. Our own Constitution impliedly sanctions it.

When a Filipina marries an Iranian national, for example, she follows the nationality of the husband. As a matter of fact, after the registry of marriage, she is issued an Iranian passport. Yet our own Constitution decrees that she remains a Filipina and does not lose her

Philippine citizenship by virtue of marriage to a foreigner, unless by some positive act of omission she renounces her Philippine citizenship.

Our Constitution also prescribes that a child born of a Filipino father or mother is a Filipino. But if that child is born abroad, say in the United States, then he or she is considered by US law an American.

In the eyes of the Philippines, he/she is Filipino. By American law following his/her birth on American soil—American, he/she is American. In other words, dual citizenship.

Even a Filipino who becomes a naturalized citizen of a foreign country, thereby losing native citizenship because he expressly renounces the same, is still accorded some rights.

The general rule states that a Filipino who loses citizenship in favor of another country like naturalization can no longer enjoy political rights like the right to run for public office or the economic right to exploit natural resources. Yet a naturalized Filipino who has lost citizenship can still own private lands here pursuant to law.

Pending congressional bills

There remain problems currently being addressed among others by several pending bills in both Houses of

Congress. The men and women in government, in the academe, religious and civic leaders should voice their responses to the challenges of dual nationalities.

The Constitution says in Section 5 of Article 4 that dual allegiance of citizens is inimical to the national interest and shall be dealt with by law.

Rightly so. For a man cannot serve two masters. And a Filipino citizen owes allegiance to the Philippines. But dual allegiance is not necessarily dual citizenship. The first is fidelity to the state, the second is membership therein.

When a Filipino becomes naturalized in another country, he becomes a member of that new country of his choice. He now owes allegiance to the same, and no longer has obligations of fidelity to the Philippines. The situation is clear.

The problem arises when a person is granted two citizenships—not by choice as in naturalization to another nation—but by virtue of basic laws vesting him with citizenship in two countries, like a Filipino born in the United States. Where does his allegiance go? Not so much in time of peace when both nations are friends and allies. But what if war breaks between the two nations—to which coun-

try will he give allegiance to?

There is an amusing story about Philippine-US relations. In the wake of war, the United States restored our independence on July 4, 1946. After Diosdado Macapagal assumed the presidency in 1961 he changed the independence date to June 12 in keeping with the original historic event in 1898.

Some members in the Cabinet mischievously remarked that this could incur the ire of the United States. One thing could lead to another and ultimately mean war between the two nations. Then the problem in that event would be—not if we lose—but if we win!

Options

In cases where a person has dual citizenship not by choice but by law, it seems pertinent and practical to leave the question of allegiance to his discretion. In the instance where a person is both a Filipino and American citizen and war breaks out between the two nations, he can exercise several options: do nothing, enlist and fight for one country, or be an advocate for peace.

A lot really depends on circumstances. If the subject person resides here, he would probably take up arms in defense of the Philippines. If he resides in the United States, he would probably do the same for America or

stay neutral as a prudent choice.

At any rate the law on dual citizenship should be complemented by a bilateral or international treaty so that challenges like this can be resolved. No accountability for treason? What of those who leave one country to seek asylum in the other? What rights do they possess? The law and complementary treaty can comprehensively respond.

Other problems

There exist other problems but minor compared with the war scenario. There is that case of a Filipina married to an Iranian. She is given an Iranian passport, but because she remains Filipina she is entitled to a Philippine passport. What if the Iranian government for some reason confiscates her Iranian passport, will they recognize her Philippine passport? What rights can she invoke?

There is the problem of the political rights for those vested with dual citizenship. Can a Filipino-American campaign and vote during elections? Can he run for public office? If he is allowed to vote and run for public office here, assuming he possesses the needed qualifications, including residency—can he also vote and run for public office in America, assuming he meets the needed legal qualifications there? What if he

runs and wins a seat in the Senate in either country and takes his oath of office, what effect will the same have on his dual citizenship?

What of economic rights to develop natural resources? A Filipino born in the United States grows up in Silicon Valley, builds a fortune there like Bill Gates. Can he come back here to exploit the nation's natural resources?

Lessons of China

The lessons of China come to mind. At the turn of the early years of the 20th century, China was stricken by poverty and many of her people—estimated at more than 30 million—left the homeland to seek a better life in other lands. Today many of them from father to sons, have become rich in many countries—Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, to cite a few countries—and they go back to China with investments. Even as we write today, many Filipinos are doing well, giving us a source of pride for acumen and ability. Filipinos who want to return one day to help the nation's economy.

So dual citizenship has challenges—but with solutions. It is a proposition whose time has come. Let us help our OFWs abroad by enacting the needed legislation, working for the required treaties. *Mabuhay ang OFWs!*

Tales told about all the President's men

(From page A1)

rassed, the President even appeared titillated by the rumors.

In front of an open-mouthed First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo—his eldest daughter Luli sitting casually on his lap—Monsod teased the giggling Ms Macapagal about her supposed affairs at the set of the President's weekly program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

The program, broadcast live from Baguio City, ran the Saturday telecast of a three-part installment detailing the Macapagal administration's year-end economic achievements.

When Monsod asked the President about the men who were rumored as her lovers, she chuckled some more.

"Ay naku, ayaw ko nang manggaling sa akin. Hindi totoo. Tignan mo naman ang aking schedule. Saan ako magkakapanahon ng affair? (Oh, I don't want it to come from me. It's not true. Look at my schedule. Where will I find the time to have an affair?)," she said.

Monsod mentioned Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and her personal publicist, Dante Ang.

"I'm so shocked!" said the President as she and the audience from the media twisted and howled uncontrollably.

'Perez affair'

The "Perez affair" surfaced after the President explained before the cameras how Malacañang recruited her so-called Cabinet economic team into government service, following the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

Pressed on by Monsod's query about "political pressures" that may have influenced the selection of her Cabinet, Ms Macapagal provided a list of recruits, some of whom were "selected" by her civil society supporters who were uncomfortable about her other "politician" appointees.

The President then admitted that the recruitment of more men into her Cabinet had its "naughty" side effects.

"Ayy . . . nakakahiya ng sabihin, kapag malapit kang makipagtrabaho sa isang lalaki, alam mo naman sa gobyerno ang dami-daming lalaki sa advisers mo, nagkaka-affair na raw kayo . . . nakuuu . . . (It's so embarrassing to reveal this. When you work closely with a man, you know that there are so many male advisers in this government, people say that you already engage in an affair with that man)," Ms Macapagal said.

"So you categorically deny that you're having an affair with . . . Nani Perez?" Monsod suddenly interjected—bringing the house down.

It took the President about two minutes of uncontrollable laughter before she could even respond to Monsod's crack.

"Naman (really now). . . talaga naman (Oh my) . . . No . . . No . . ." the President managed to yelp out in between hysterical giggles.

Malacañang reporters who watched the program said Monsod failed to mention other names.

Monsod did not pursue the topic so the President could de-

liver her closing remarks.

But just as soon as that was over, the President resumed chuckling.

Mr. Arroyo by that time was already standing to witness the amused audience.

Monsod approached him after the telecast to explain the question on Perez, which turned out to be the climax of yesterday's telecast.

"No, it's fine. It was approached well, naman, eh," Mr. Arroyo assured Monsod.

"Only Winnie (Monsod) could pull something like that," he later told the INQUIRER.

Ms Macapagal had explained the predicament of a female President, whose spouse becomes a "First Gentleman."

"If (former United States First Lady) Nancy Reagan or (former First Lady) Amelita Ramos give (out) their opinion, hindi sila pinupuna (they are not criticized). But if my husband says, 'Abu Sayyaf ang nag-kidnap sa Dos Palmas (The Abu Sayyaf kidnapped people from Dos Palmas),' (critics will immediately react with) 'Why is he meddling with public affairs?' Ms Macapagal said.

Real meddlers

But the real "meddlers," it turned out were members of civil society who wanted a hand in selecting the Cabinet secretaries for environment, agriculture and other agencies "close" to the non-government organizations and activists who joined the EDSA II movement that ousted Mr. Estrada.

Monsod was able to draw this information from the President herself during the program.

Ms Macapagal said she had "welcomed" almost everyone from the EDSA movement to her government in her first few days in Malacañang.

"In the first days, I said welcome, welcome (to) Alberto Romulo (now executive Secretary), Paul Dominguez (outgoing presidential adviser for Mindanao affairs) . . . But on the fourth day, (when I appointed) Simeon Datumanong as Public Works Secretary and Michael Defensor (as Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair), that's when the complaints surfaced," she said in Filipino.

Ms Macapagal said the "NGO circle" offered their choices for agencies that were partnered with their ongoing networks.

She stressed that a screening committee continued to process most of her government's appointments.

Outgoing Presidential Management Staff (PMS) chief Victoria Garchitorena would still run it.

The President said keeping many of her recruits like Garchitorena, who comes from the business sector, was a bigger chore.

But Garchitorena and Dominguez are staying on as Palace advisers—a solution that will allow both to return to the corporate sector without breaking a government ban on officials having two positions.

Ms Macapagal said most of her Cabinet "sacrificed" high paying jobs in the name of public service. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

GMA, FVR kiss and make up

(From page A1)

"Ang initip ko noong araw, ang pinaka-disadvantage ng (babaeng presidente) ay mga power brokers. Mayroon silang bias sa babae (I was already contemplating that power brokers were the biggest disadvantage of a female president. They have a bias against women). You have to be better to be treated equally," she told economist Solita Monsod, the guest host of the program.

Ms Macapagal's comments came on the heels of Ramos' declaration in Baguio that he was not about to "anoint" a presidential candidate for the 2004 polls.

On the reported rift, the President said: "No. Last night (Friday night) we saw each other at cocktails. Just to show you (there is no rift between us)."

Over canapes and red wine, Ms Macapagal met Ramos past 7 p.m. at the annual Christmas party of the United States Embassy at the Ambassador's Summer Residence at Camp John Hay.

As soon as the President's program was broadcast live, Monsod began asking Ms Macapagal to respond to the INQUIRER's banner on Saturday detailing how her working holiday schedule since Thursday appeared to have avoided any chance encounter with Ramos.

Ms Macapagal denied that she snubbed Ramos on Friday when he came to Baguio City where the First Family is vacationing.

Ramos was at Camp John Hay for the inaugural of the Camp John Hay Manor on Friday. Ms Macapagal was expected as guest of honor but she just sent a representative. She played golf at the Baguio Country Club instead.

She said she was not scheduled to play golf with Ramos or with De Venecia, contrary to media reports.

"Hindi ko talaga alam kung saan nila nakuha iyong balita na (I really don't know where they got the story that) I will be playing (golf) with them (Ramos and De Venecia), kasi wala naman talaga akong (I really don't have any) set (of) playing partners," the President said in her program.

Pressing on, Monsod asked: "So in other words, hindi kayo nagkagali ni President Ramos (You and President Ramos didn't get into a fight)?"

"Wala! Kaya nga naman, I told you. Media responsibility. I don't believe in (gagging) the media. But please, responsibility," Ms Macapagal said.

Ramos invitation

The President said she was not even supposed to come to the tee-off because she was scheduled to give her year-end report and to visit Barlig town in the Mt. Province, an eight-hour ride from Baguio City.

"But since he (Ramos) asked me last night just to give (the tee-off) a couple of minutes, I came," she told reporters.

'Unity meeting'

De Venecia said there were "no serious conversations" (including Ramos'

2004 plans) at the tee-off "because these already occurred last Dec. 22."

He was referring to a "unity meeting" between Ramos and the President in Malacañang.

In the meeting, De Venecia said rumors about Ramos seeking reelection in 2004 were clarified and denied.

"Unity was already sealed last Dec. 22," the Speaker said.

The Speaker said the President and everybody concerned were taking Ramos' word that he was not running "not only at its assessed value but its real market value."

The Speaker laughed when asked to comment about observations that Ramos could not keep his word because he broke an agreement to support the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino presidential candidate in 1992.

Ms Macapagal confirmed the meeting with Ramos and several Lakas leaders in Malacañang, but offered little details about it.

"It was a meeting of Lakas leaders . . . (The party leadership) said other parties were having fellowships so we should be having fellowships, too. It doesn't mean that just because the President is from Lakas, the President has to see everybody. The Lakas people also would like to see me and we had a fellowship recently," Ms Macapagal said.

'Confidential'

Ramos described this meeting of 10 party officials as "confidential."

Miriam 'irrefragably' sure FVR can't run again

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

FORMER President Fidel Ramos is making noises about his reelection bid in 2004 to "extort something" from President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to his arch critic ex-Sen. Miriam Santiago.

Santiago said there was no need for the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution because the ban on reelection of any President was "irrefragably clear."

Santiago's view on the clarity of the ban is similar with that of Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments.

Nachura, a law professor at San Beda College (not San Sebastian as reported earlier), said there was no gray area at all in the Constitution when it comes to the ban on reelection of a president.

Santiago, who narrowly lost to Ramos in the 1992 presidential elections, said Ramos' rumored bid for reelection in 2004 was not for real.

"If Ramos files a petition in the Supreme Court, it will be an ego petition and a desperate attempt to extend his 15 minutes in the lime-

light," Santiago said in one of the rare interviews she gave since she lost in the May senatorial elections.

"In pragmatic terms, Ramos is making these futile noises only to intimidate Ms Macapagal to concede something that Ramos wants," Santiago said when the INQUIRER asked her to comment on the issue.

Smokescreen

"It is just a smokescreen. He is saber-rattling to push Ms Macapagal to the wall trying to extort something from her that she does not want to give," she added.

Santiago said she had no idea what Ramos wanted to get from Ms Macapagal.

But whatever it is, Santiago said it was "extremely selfish" for Ramos to "waste the energy of the Supreme Court on a vanity petition that will serve no purpose except to bolster the ego of one decrepit person in society."

Santiago said the debate on whether Ramos was eligible to seek a second term in 2004 would only "add to the division of society."

In the first place, Santiago said, there was no gray area in the constitutional ban at all. "The constitutional provision is irrefragably clear," she said.

An acknowledged constitutional ex-

pert, Santiago has written a two-volume series on constitutional law, which is now being used as textbook in law schools.

She has taught the subject for 10 years at the UP College of Law.

Santiago said that the Constitution and the Records of the Constitutional Commission stated that the ban on reelection was total, complete and permanent and that this applied to "all kinds of presidents and all kinds of elections."

"The rule of statutory construction is that when the Constitution is clear, there is no room for interpretation," Santiago said.

She said that when the Constitution stated that the president shall not be eligible for any reelection, the word "any" means that it covers all kinds of presidents whether incumbent or former.

The word "any" also refers to all types of election, whether it comes immediately after the term or a reelection sometime in the future, the former senator said.

No room for doubt

The context of the constitutional provision also leaves no room for doubt, according to Santiago.

The next sentence in the pertinent provision states that any person who has

"It was to, basically, unify everybody so that we can get on the economic recovery platform for the good of the country. After which, as she (Ms Macapagal) announced during her inaugural speech (on) Jan. 20, we should be moving along a high growth path from 6 to 8 percent. And, of course, we have been supporting her regarding that vision for the country," Ramos said at the golf course.

As Lakas titular head, Ramos endorsed Ms Macapagal as Lakas vice-presidential candidate in the 1998 elections.

She won but De Venecia, the standard-bearer, lost miserably to Joseph Estrada, who was ousted after two-and-a-half years in office.

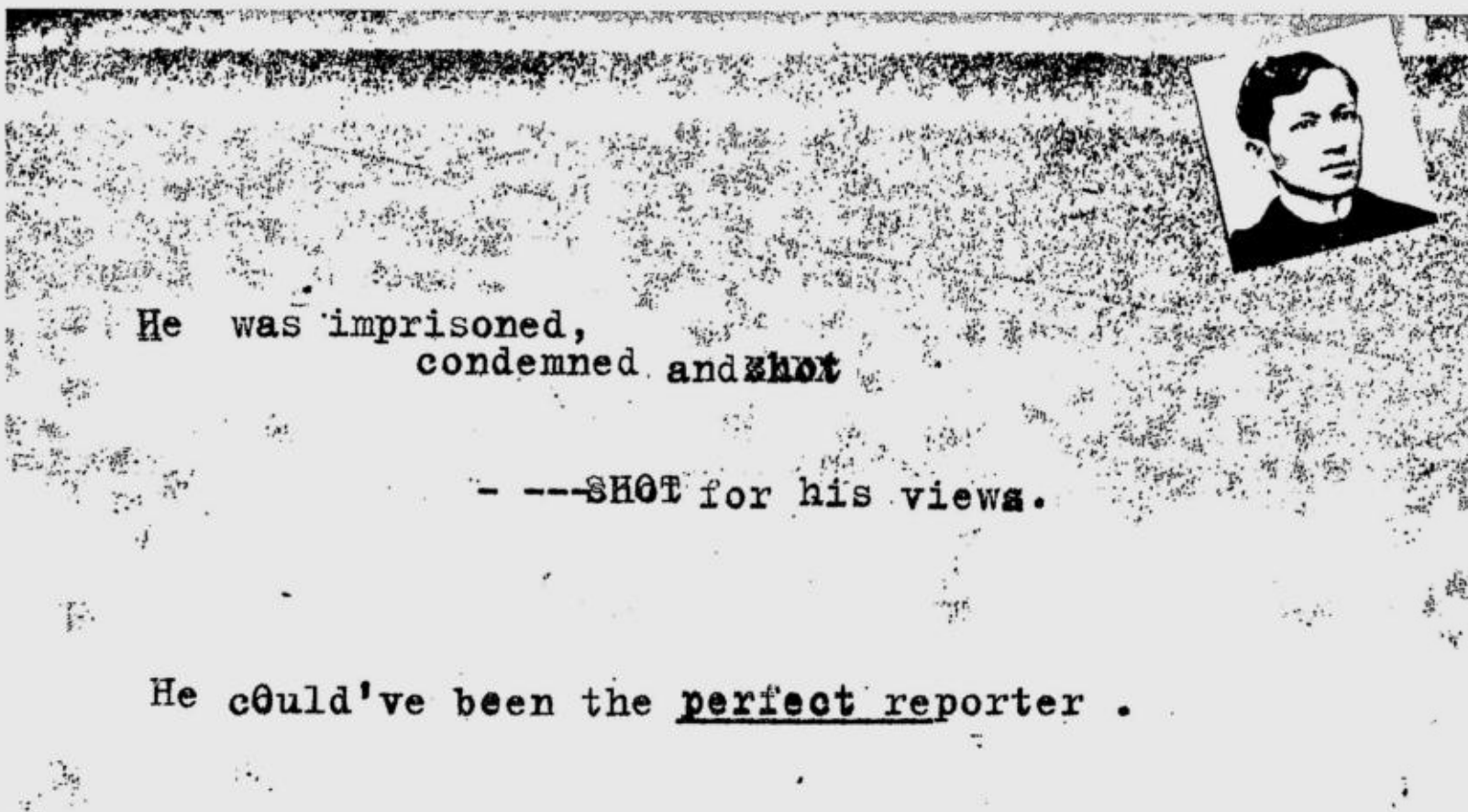
Ramos has staunchly denied he would run again, although unnamed Lakas officials claimed he would.

Samar Rep. Antonio Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, however, said Ramos could not run again.

He said the Constitution bans a former president from running again. The ban covers former President Corason Aquino and even Estrada, he said.

The Constitution also prohibits a vice president, who assumed the presidency and served for more than four years, from seeking reelection.

Ms Macapagal is not covered by this provision as she is serving out only the remaining three years of Estrada's term. *With a report from Fe Zamora*



He was imprisoned, condemned and shot

---SHOT for his views.

He could've been the perfect reporter.

Erap also planning second coming

(From page A1)

of EDSA II and EDSA III. EDSA II refers to the people power that ousted Estrada while EDSA III refers to the assault of Malacañang by Estrada's supporters.

A source said work on the video started last November and was timed to counter Ms Macapagal's year-end messages on the accomplishments of her 11-month-old administration.

Estrada's three-page New Year's message lashed out at the Macapagal administration and the forces that worked for his ouster last January.

Estrada said that contrary to the claims made by the Macapagal administration, the country remained beset by low investor confidence, high unemployment rate, deteriorating peace and order situation, and government corruption. He said these "kept hidden and cleverly whitewashed in the media."

The "only single shining accom-

plishment bragged about" by the Macapagal presidency, he said, was the \$540-million deal between local food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and Kirin Co. Ltd. of Japan.

"And yet this has become a subject of controversy and is now being subverted in the halls of government. Certainly, all these can no longer be attributed to me, but to the mismanagement of our economy," he said.

San Miguel is headed by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., a close Estrada ally.

"Like many of our people, I welcome the New Year with a mixed sense of anxiety and optimism. I express a deep sense of apprehension because the better life and the better government promised our people following my unceremonious removal from office have not come to fulfillment," he added.

Last week, Estrada sent out Christmas cards bearing his picture and according him the title "President."

The Philippine Daily Inquirer pays tribute to Jose Rizal.

For the kind of bravery and love of country so rarely seen but so badly needed these days.

S.H.O.P.

THERE may be fewer horses in the program when the first racing day for the year 2002 is held on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

That may be because of several owners' protest of the cancellation of the winners' division races.

We heard that the Philracom was requested to extend the holding of winners' division for another six months but the racing body turned it down.

If that would be the case, it's not going to be a good start for the year of the horse.

A NEW horseowners' group has been formed.

It is called the S.H.O.P. or Samahan ng Horseowners sa Pilipinas.

It's recent Christmas party was well-attended and among those present were Rudy Mendoza, Reli de Leon, Ciso Morales, Joel Songsong, Ed Gonzales, Rufing Fauni and Jun Guevarra.

"We formed S.H.O.P. to support the country's racing industry," said De Leon.

Mendoza added that they will also support the Metropolitan Association of Racehorse Owners (Marho) and the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo).

Welcome to the club!

GRIZZLED trainer Ching Vicente is wondering why jockey Val Dilema was not suspended when his mount Patago got disquali-

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva



fied recently.

"Kung di sinusipindi si Val ibig sabihin walang foul riding na nangyari sa pagsakay niya kay Patago. Eh, bakit na-disqualify ang kabayo?" Vicente asked.

Mang Ching branded the Manila Jockey Club stewards as "mga bulag at bobo." "Marunong siguro silang bumasa ng reglamento pero di marunong magpatupad," he said.

REY Fetalvero's favorite race caller, "Mr. Three and Fifty to Travel," of Santa Ana Park is back and this time, he is sending racing fans in stitches with new lines like "like a shot of a gun," and "saying goodbye to the opponents" ala Weakest Link intonation, among others.

We thought the Philippine Racing Club has already kicked this guy out.

To my fellow kareristas and those who have been regularly following this space, Happy New Year to all of you!

Visiting Raptors tame Shaquille-less Lakers

LOS ANGELES— Beginning the game without Hakeem Olajuwon and finishing it without Vince Carter, the visiting Toronto Raptors still managed to beat the Shaquille O'Neal-less Los Angeles Lakers, 89-86, in the NBA Friday night.

Carter left the game with a strained left shoulder in the final second of the third quarter. He was to have X-rays. He had walked off the floor in obvious pain, holding his left arm immobile.

Olajuwon was out again with an infected toe, while his Lakers counterpart, O'Neal, is on the disabled list with an arthritic toe.

Alvin Williams had 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead three Raptors with double-doubles. Antonio Davis had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Keon Clark added 14 points and 16 rebounds. Kobe Bryant led Los Angeles with 26 points.

Kings 125, Timberwolves 111

In Sacramento, California, Peja Stojakovic scored 27 points and all five Sacramento starters reached double figures.

The victory was their ninth straight at Arco Arena, improving the Kings (22-9) to an NBA-best 16-1 at home this season.

After watching a lead that was once 17 points dip to six early in the fourth quarter, five different players scored for the Kings in a 9-1 run that gave them a 106-92 lead with 6:51 remaining.

The lead remained in double figures then rest of the game.

Rockets 100, Warriors 93

In Oakland, California, Cuttino Mobley scored 31 points as the Houston Rockets continued their success on the road against Golden State.

Kenny Thomas added 20 points and 13 rebounds as the Rockets won their 12th straight on the Warriors' home court. Moochie Norris had 19 points and Eddie Griffin grabbed 13 rebounds.

Antawn Jamison led Golden State, which had a two-game winning streak stopped, with 18 points. Larry Hughes added 17 points, Danny Fortson had 14 and Chris Mills 13.

The Warriors last beat Houston at home on March 7, 1996. Houston is 16-1 in its last 17 road games against the Warriors.

Bucks 105, Hornets 89

Sam Cassell scored 29 points and Glenn Robinson added 21 to lead the Bucks to a lopsided 105-89 victory over the Hornets.

Friday's victory was the third straight win for the Bucks, who were without Ray Allen for a fourth consecutive game because of tendinitis in his left knee.

The Hornets, who are without Jamal Mashburn and are at least two weeks away from adding injured George Lynch to the lineup, have now lost five of seven games and could be in big trouble if leading scorer Baron Davis continues to have his own knee problems.

Davis started the game but was clearly bothered, missing nine of 10 shots in the first half. He then banged his knee again in the third quarter and hopped off the court for good with 8:21 left in the period.

AP

NBA RESULTS

Milwaukee 105, Charlotte 89; Cleveland 98, Newish 91, Miami 86; Orlando 87, Detroit 79; Denver 93, Philadelphia 90; Sacramento 125, Minnesota 111; Houston 100, Golden State 93; Toronto 89, L.A. Lakers 86.

AP

Jordan nears 30,000 points

NEW YORK—Michael Jordan is closing in on 30,000 career points, which would make him only the fourth player to achieve that feat.

After scoring a career-low six points against Indiana on Thursday, Jordan has 29,889 career points and needs 111 to join an exclusive group that includes NBA all-time leading scorer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387 points), Karl Malone (33,634) and Wilt Chamberlain (31,419).

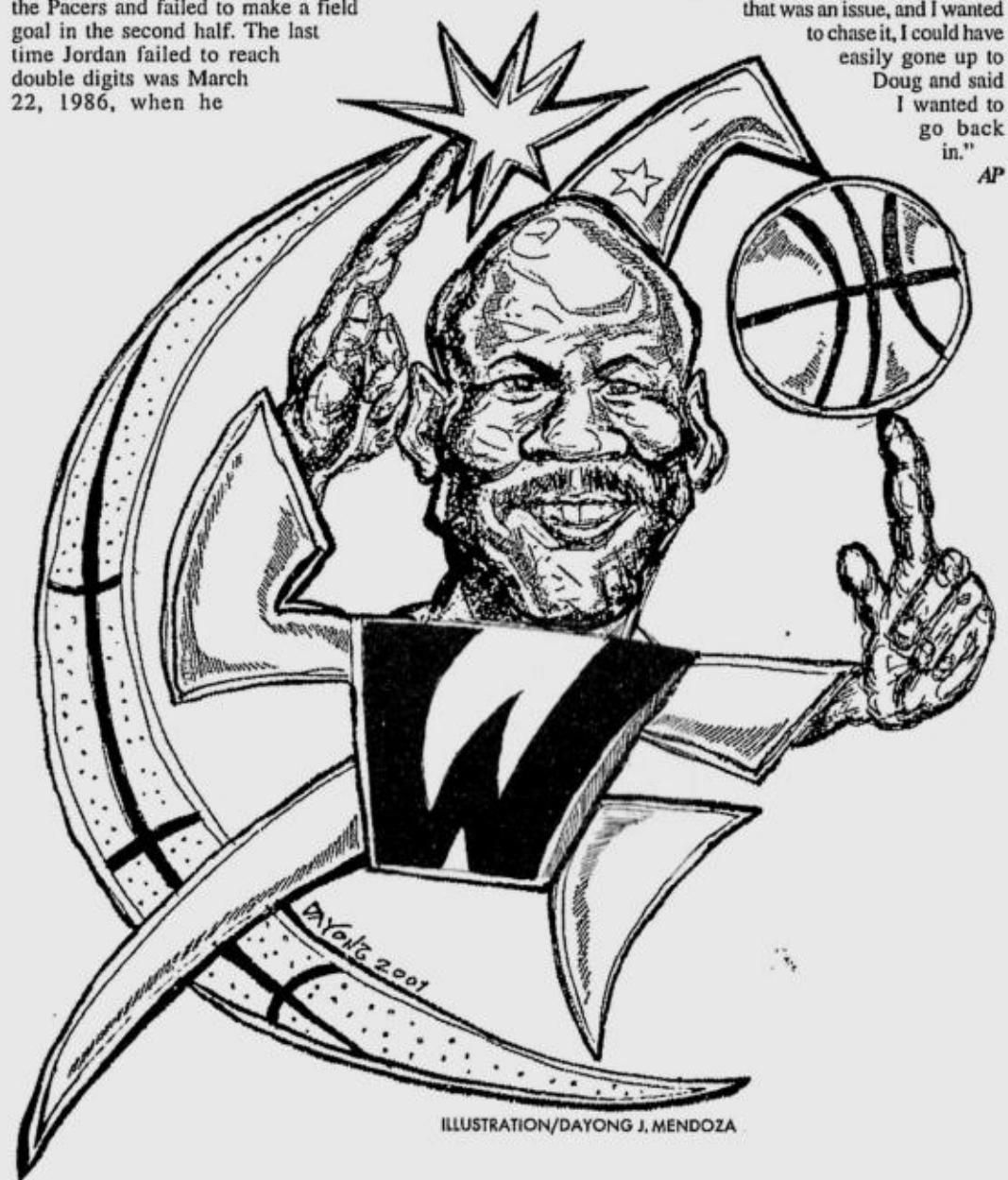
Jordan played only 25 minutes against the Pacers and failed to make a field goal in the second half. The last time Jordan failed to reach double digits was March 22, 1986, when he

scored eight points against Cleveland - his previous career-low. He had reached double digits in 866 straight games.

Jordan left with 3:23 remaining in the third and the Wizards trailing by 26. He said he never thought of asking coach Doug Collins to let him re-enter the game.

"I knew where I was in terms of that," Jordan said of the double-digit scoring streak. "I'm not here chasing any individual accolades. If I felt that was an issue, and I wanted to chase it, I could have easily gone up to Doug and said I wanted to go back in."

AP



ILLUSTRATION/DAYONG J. MENDOZA

Wind Blown wins Classic Open race

Hermie's horse may run abroad next year

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA



PAT Dilema jubilates as Wind Blown hits the payoff wire. Sportsman-businessman Hermie Esquerra (inset) said Wind Blown got invitations to race in Japan, Singapore or Malaysia next year.

HORSE of the Year Wind Blown capped his sizzling campaign in 2001 by ruling the Classic Open Championship yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

But that happened after the massive colt owned by sportsman-businessman Hermie Esquerra turned back the challenge from Batangas Entry in the stretch.

"Medyo kinabahan kami pero split second lang naman," said a beaming Esquerra, whose champion galloper pocketed P1 million from the last major race of the year.

That bounty brought Wind Blown's career earnings to P11.8 million, making him the highest-earning horse ever in the country.

"Salamat sa lahat ng sumuporta kay Wind Blown. I want to share this victory with all of you," added the 47-year-old Esquerra, who acquired Wind Blown from bosom friend Sandy Javier after the colt's loss to Phenomenal in the same race a year ago.

Incidentally, Phenomenal collapsed and died after that race due to heart failure.

Esquerra said Wind Blown might be raced outside the country next year. If plans push through, Wind Blown might compete either in Japan, Singapore or Malaysia.

Batangas Entry's runner-up finish mirrored the 1-2 arrival in the recent Presidential Gold Cup where the Paolo Mendoza speedball surprised everyone by hanging on to come in under the wire six lengths off Wind Blown. Batangas Entry took home P375,000 after yesterday's run where she ended up only two lengths behind.

Putch Puyat's Staunch Ally finished third, four lengths off the winner, to bag P208,500, while Lyonnais arrived fourth worth P83,500.

High Roller checked in fifth then came Sun City and Sparkling Sky.

Sun City, the horse who inflicted Wind Blown's only loss this year, will be retired in February for breeding purposes, according to her owner Jun Almada.

"Medyo malamig ang takbo kaya inalagaan ko sa palo. Buti naman nagresponde siya nang todo," said Wind Blown's partner Pat Dilema after the race that all but clinched for him the Jockey of the Year award.

Former jockey Antonio Alcasid Jr. conditioned Wind Blown, who won seven major stakes races in his 10 starts for 2001.

Aside from the Classic Open and PGC, the Hazm-Wind in My Hair colt also ruled the First Gentleman Silver Cup, Founders' Cup, Gran Copa Division 1, TAB Philippines Cup and Marho Breeders' Cup Classic.

Wind Blown negotiated the 2,050-meter race in 2:13.5 (29.5-24-27-25-28).

The jello's jiggling, but where is LA announcer Chick Hearn?

BY PERCY D. DELLA

SACRAMENTO — "This one's in the refrigerator, the door's closed, the lights are out, the butter's getting hard and the jello's jiggling," the venerable Chick Hearn would have shouted into the microphone on Wednesday night.

Hearn would have directed the lament for a losing team — one of his signature phrases — at his Los Angeles Lakers. Playing without Shaquille O'Neal has its price. The Golden State Warriors beat LA 101-90.

But Hearn was not at the Oakland Coliseum to do the play-by-play. His streak of 3,338 consecutive games called as the voice of the Lakers ended with heart surgery Dec. 20.

It will be a Southern California event when he resumes his broadcasting chores in about five weeks.

A verbal autopsy of the Oakland loss would have occurred—as performed by Dr. Hearn—who has the latitude to point out Laker faults on the court. His licentious dissection of the L (lose) column is well earned. He's been the Lakers' only play-by-play announcer since the team moved to LA from Minneapolis at the beginning of the 1960-61 season.

Generations of Angelenos — including die-hard Filipino basketball fans — have only known one Laker announcer in the last 41 years or so.

Hearn is nearly beloved by Laker diehards as are Kobe Bryant and O'Neal, or as are Jerry West, Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Magic Johnson in past Laker eras.

To older Filipino fans, tuning in to a Laker game without Hearn is like watching Yco and Ysmal in mute — minus the voice of the late Willie Hernandez. It's like viewing the MICA winding down and the



HEARN

PBA starting up in the 1970s without Raffy Mejia, Frank Sanchez and Dick Yldefonso. It's like leaving the younger Filipino set in a daze speculating at a current PBA game without, as Al S. Mendoza would put it, Sev Sarmiento or Ed Picson calling the shots, so to speak.

For those who are counting, Hearn's 3,338 consecutive Lakers games called is 736 more games than Cal Ripken's famous consecutive-games played streak in baseball. Ripken retired this year at 41. Hearn, like father time, keeps on ticking at age 85.

Hearn is an American Sportscasters Association Hall of Famer and in all probability will be enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame. It will be a tribute to a guy who invented a whole new basketball lexicon.

Broadcasters and sportswriters from Australia to Zambia use chick-isms. Among his inventions are such basketball phrases as "slam dunk," "ticky-tack foul," "no harm, no foul," and "garbage time."

He also said these terms first: Air ball (a shot misses everything), the front court (offensive zone) and charity lane (free throw line).

Among Hearn's other signature catch phrases are: "The mustard's off the hot dog (for a turnover caused by a showboating player)."

"Caught with his hand in the cookie jar (for a player committing a reaching-in foul)."

And when the game's winding down and the outcome is certain, much so with a Lakers defeat, "This one's in the refrigerator; the door's closed, the lights are out, the butter's getting hard and the jello's jiggling."

CAP-John Hay posts sweep

CAP-JOHN Hay banked on its familiarity of the short but challenging golf courses of Camp John Hay and Baguio Country club to sweep the Fil and Am divisions of Flight A in the recently concluded 52nd Annual Men's International Golf Tournament in Baguio City.

Backed by College Assurance Plan (CAP), the Baguio-based squad dished out an impressive performance, piling up enough points in four grueling rounds of fierce competition in both divisions.

Spearheading the FIL-Flight A is team captain Shean Bedi, who accounted for the highest aggregate score under the Stableford scoring system. The other team members are Mike Pearson, Jimmy Borromeo, and the Samaniego brothers, Danny and Ronnie.

"The collective effort paid off. We are extremely happy with the win," Bedi said.

They finished the tournament with a total of 416 points, four ahead of Philippine Navy and seven ahead

of Heidi's Construction, who placed second and third, respectively.

Equally superb was the accomplishment of the AM-Flight A team.

Led by veterans Freddie Mendoza and Bong Mandapat, the AM-Flight A made a charge to start the tournament and built a commanding lead over its closest pursuers.

Days 2 and 3 of play proved to be a massacre as they padded their point advantage to 48.

In the end, they finished with 414 points, well over of runner-up Aguinaldo Golf Club's 337. Second runner-up was Pines Golfers of California with 329.

Aside from Mendoza and Mandapat, Camp John Hay Dev. Corp. chairman Robert John Sobrepena, Mars Garcia, Clyde Cabrereros and Nap Maranan composed the team.

Mendoza also won the individual honors for Class A.

Golf Power features clinic today

GOLF Power today features the highlights of a golf clinic conducted by Australian Peter Cloughton and Gerard Cantada at Wack Wack for junior players.

Golf Power, now on its sixth year, is aired every

Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13 and is hosted by golf professional Gerud Cantada. They weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. Cebu Pacific and Outback Steakhouse sponsor this week's golf program.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIT

POOL: World Pool League 2001 at 8 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA: San Antonio Spurs vs Milwaukee Bucks at 9:10 p.m. on NBN 4

This Week in the NBA tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on CNN

GOLF: Mission Hills Tiger Woods Golf Challenge Highlights at 2 p.m. on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

US Open Official Films - 1994 at 11 p.m. (r) on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - Baltimore Ravens vs Tampa Bay Buccaneers at 10 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.) on ESPN

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 8 a.m., Manchester United vs Fulham at 11:50 p.m. on ESPN

World Cup Mix at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

ICE SKATING: Starskates Motown 2000 at 10:30 a.m. on Star Sports

Trophee Lalique 2001, Highlights #3 at 4 p.m. on Star Sports

U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Pair's Short and Original Dance at 9 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Starskates Latin 2000 at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

BILLIARDS: 2001 WPBA Classic Tour - National Championship, Semifinal #1 at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Rolando Abo drew with Jayson Gonzales in 45 moves of a French Defense to halt the latter's winning streak in the fifth round of the Metropolitan Chess Club Non-Masters Chess Tournament at the Harris Memorial Compound on Taft Avenue. Also today in 1994, Rodney Filipinas beat Gabby Remigio, 7-5, 7-6 (7-2), to snare the boys' 14-under division of the 1994 Milo International Junior Tennis Cup at the Philam Homes Tennis Club.

'The Greatest' today on RPN 9

THE "PBA'S Greatest Games" show relives the glory of the PBA Grand Slam-winning Alaska Milk of 1996 at 12 noon today on RPN-9. "The Greatest Fights" follows at 1 p.m. and it features two classic Muhammad Ali fights, against Jerry Quarry and Richard Dunn.

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

NY to build \$1.6-B stadiums

NEW YORK—The New York Yankees and Mets reached tentative agreement with the city to build a pair of \$800 million, retractable-roof stadiums. Incoming Mayor Michael Bloomberg will have final word on the agreements, which were announced by current Mayor Rudolph Giuliani on Friday. **AP**

PUMAREN- RITUALO COMBINE

La Salle 'four-ward' top sports story

BY THE SPORTS STAFF

Illbruck leads Volvo race

HOBART, Australia—Leading yachts in the Sydney to Hobart race made slow progress over the final 10 or 15 nautical miles early Saturday, battling an outgoing tide in windless conditions on the Derwent River.

Illbruck, which won the first two legs of the Volvo Ocean Race and is competing with seven other around-the-world yachts in the Hobart race en route to Auckland, New Zealand on the global race's third leg, was among the leading yachts along with News Corp and the disqualified Tyco.

They were followed closely by three other Volvos, Amer Sports One, Assa Abloy and Djice as well as defending champion maxi Nicorette.

Tyco was disqualified from the Hobart race on Thursday due to a rule infraction—failing to report its position at a designated checkpoint—but its standing in the Volvo race is not affected. It has appealed the Hobart race committee's decision.

The Volvo yachts will have a short stop in Hobart before continuing to Auckland.

Three of the Volvo yachts have had major equipment problems during the Hobart race.

Swedish Volvo 60 SEB, which was fourth at the time, suffered rudder damage off the northeastern tip of Tasmania on Friday morning. The rudder came away from the boat, leaving a hole in the bottom which the crew plugged.

There were reports from the race committee that SEB was heading for the Australian mainland and is out of the third Volvo leg.

Amer Sports Too sailed toward Hobart under jury rig after breaking a forestay in the middle of Bass Strait. **AP**

FOUR UAAP titles in as many years. Truly, the La Salle Green Archers are a class act in the Philippine sporting scene in the year just about to end.

The Archers' four-ward march is mainly attributed to the Franz Pumaren-Renren Ritualo tandem. They both joined the league in 1998, Pumaren as coach and Ritualo as player, and have since lorded it over the collegiate ranks.

That the Archers' last two triumphs came at the expense of their chief rivals, the Ateneo Blue Eagles, made the feat even sweeter. For Pumaren and Ritualo, it meant lasting fame and very likely plenty of money.

Even if they are to part ways this year, with Pumaren staying on as La Salle mentor, and Ritualo transferring his form-perfect shooting to the pro ranks, their lives will forever be intertwined by that four championships.

La Salle's hard-earned success earned the INQUIRER's sports staff as the sports story of the year, nudging out the foreign exploits of Bata Reyes and Dorothy Delasin.

Magical form

Reyes regained his magical form and with a string of triumphs bolstered his reputation as the world's most dominant billiards player.

Delasin retained her Giant Eagle Classic crown and proved her true mettle when she won the World Championship, which is confined to the world's Top 20 lady golfers.

Overshadowed was Manny Pacquiao's unimpressive retention of the International Boxing Federation's super bantam championship. With Gerry Peñalosa head-butted out of victory in Yokohama, Japan, Pacquiao was left as the lone Filipino world boxing champion.

The Philippines' dismal showing in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games, where it landed fifth with merely 31 gold medals, was expected owing to the troubles and problems that hounded the athletes even before they left.

Truth was only the track and field bets of Go Teng Kok performed above par with nine golds, the last of which was conferred to Dandy Gallenero only last week after the Thai winner was disqualified for failing a drug test.

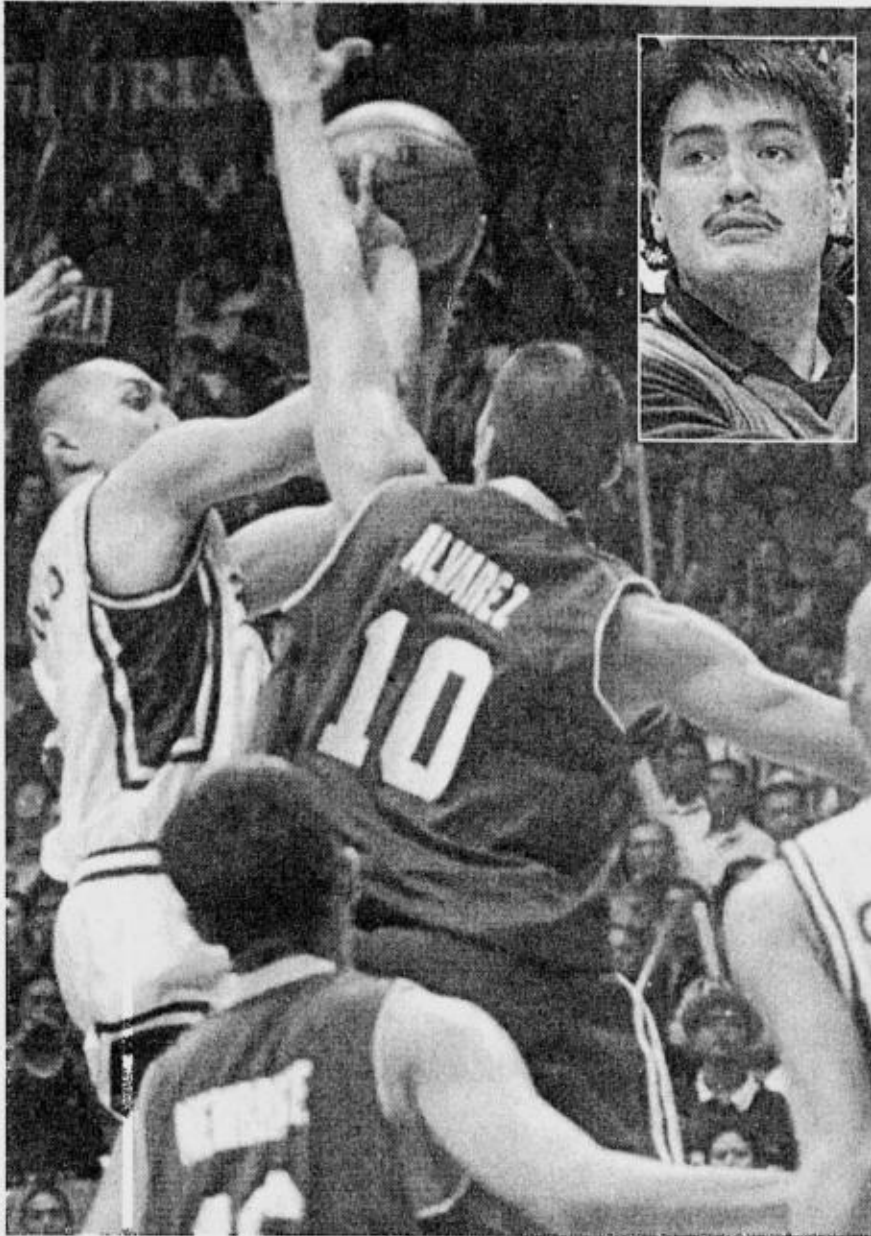
Squabbles

The Malaysia debacle prompted calls and marches by disgruntled athletes for the ouster of the top officials of the Philippine Sports Commission headed by Butch Tauson and the Philippine Olympic Committee led by Cito Dayrit.

Typical of the squabbles which rocked the national sports associations is the leadership struggle in the Basketball Association of the Philippines between the factions of Tiny Lital and Lito Puyat.

After nine months, several lawsuits and at least five elections later, Lital was finally recognized as the legitimate BAP president by the International Basketball Federation and, subsequently, the POC.

The PBA was again a rich source of stories, starting with the sudden sacking of Alfrancis Chua as Tanduay coach in favor of Derick Pumaren. Chua reemerged with Sta. Lucia Realty, assisting Norman Black in



RITUALO (with ball) executing his patented jumper. Inset is teary-eyed Pumaren after La Salle's victory in the UAAP championship. FILE PHOTOS

steering the Realtors to their first title since joining the league nine years ago.

Also given prominence was Batang Red Bull's capture of the 2nd conference title under the mentorship of Yeng Guiao.

What caught many by surprise, however, was the clearance to play given by the PBA and the Department of Justice to Asi Taulava, who had been deported once for submitting spurious citizenship documents, and Eric Menk.

Honoring its commitment to represent the country in the Asian Games, the PBA chose Ron Jacobs to handle the RP quintet to the Busan Asian next year. Jacobs became the third American named to the Asian after Black in 1994 and Tim Cone in 1998.

Jacobs stroke

Barely three weeks into the process of selecting the players, Jacobs suffered a stroke and is still confined at the St. Luke's hospital. PBA June Bernardino, however, said Jacobs would remain the national team coach.

Other major developments were the purchase of the Tanduay franchise by FedEx and San Miguel Beer's acquisition of Pop and Purefoods. With Ginebra also under its

wings, San Miguel now owns four of the 10 PBA teams.

MBA survival

In the MBA, 2000 national titlist Andok's San Juan took a leave of absence even as LBC Batangas finally bagged its first championship. The league's composition is likely to vary next year as Olongapo City, under Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon and Mayor Kate Gordon, decided to join even as 1998 inaugural titlist Pampanga makes its return after a year's absence.

Local horseracing saw Wind Blown blow away the field.

Wind Blown, owned by sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra, ruled seven major races, including the most prestigious Presidential Gold Cup, and was unanimous choice as Horse of the Year.

On the international front, we picked two outstanding stories: Michael Jordan's return to the NBA and Beijing being picked to host the 2008 Olympics.

The 38-year-old Jordan has shown flashes of his old brilliance, giving the Washington Wizards some measure of respectability and raising the team's gate receipts.



CHRISTIAN Carliso Canlas stroking his way to victory in the boys 12-under division of the Milo netfest.

Divina's divine form

YOU win three major titles and that's something to crow about already. One title every year, fellas. La Salle did more: four UAAP titles. One every year from 1998. Cheers to coach Franz Pumaren, pilot of all four titles who first won in his rookie year in 1998.

I told my Sports Staff that the La Salle saga was my top sports story of the year; they unanimously agreed.

But to be clear, though, this does not diminish the luster arising from the accomplishment on the world stage of billiards' magician Bata Reyes and golfing wizard Dorothy Joy Delasin, our winners of the PSA Athlete of the Year awards.

In choosing La Salle, we put premium on La Salle's masterful act of snatching the nation's top college basketball plumb. We recognized La Salle's courage as the Archers defied all odds to reach the zenith of success.

To do it, it had to survive powerhouse Ateneo, a threat to expel a main cog due to an alleged technicality on eligibility problems, and a virus that hospitalized players and nearly decimated the squad's starting five in the Finals.

To say that La Salle had to pass through the proverbial eye of the needle, to use a cliché, to win its fourth UAAP crown is an understatement. The manner with which the Archers licked their trials was, in itself, a story of untold proportions. Here's to class act.

What's the latest on Ron Jacobs?

Even as he remains confined at St. Luke's ICU (intensive care unit), I was told he's getting better. Upon hearing that, I applauded quietly. I closed my eyes and said my usual prayer for his speedy recovery.

One of his doctors said yesterday Ron's total recovery will depend on how well he'd respond to therapy once he is discharged from the hospital.

I can believe that.

But for now, let's continue to pray that our coach will recover, fastbreak style.

Is it true Sydney Hall, who loves to "fix" boxing problems for a fee, hit town recently and tried to link up with Eduardo Villanueva, the new chief of the Games and Amusements Board?

But if I know Ed, he's not gullible. He's not the type who could be so easily fooled.

There's a lot of fixing that's needed to be done at GAB but, hey, we do not need the likes of a Hall to help us mend the fences at Ed's turf.

More on Hall once I receive more data on him coming from California, his main base of operation.

Is it crying time for PBL?

I guess not. Dioceldo Sy, the PBL top banana, has said his piece: "We've always known that our league is the chief maker of future basket-

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

ball stars. We continue to take pride in that."

Some coaches can't help but whine every time they see their top players enter the PBA Draft. Can't blame them. It's really hard to develop a star player—only to lose him to the PBA.

But then, as the saying goes—that's how the cookie crumbles. We lose our own daughters to total strangers taking them to a march down the marriage aisle.

The PBL has been there 17 years as the main springboard to fame—and fortune—for cagers wishing to hit the big time that is the PBA. We can shed a tear, why not? But then, after a tear or two, let's get on with it. It's for their future, anyway.

Many are still puzzled over the amazing ways of Michael Jordan. They forget the fact that Jordan returned because he could still hack it.

As I said, only the intelligent can make intelligent decisions.

Jordan returned because he knew he could still play good basketball. Had he felt he could not dish it out anymore, he would have decided otherwise.

So, on with the show. The Jordan Show.

Speaking of amazement, I was amazed at how good a golfer Divina Delasin is. I played with her on Thursday at Riviera and, boy, can she drive. Not only can she whack monster tee shots, she can also score.

Divina, 20, is the younger sister of world golf sensation Dorothy, 21. Dorothy is our Female Athlete of the Year.

Divina, her form as divine as her swing, blew into town to receive Dorothy's TOYM award at Malacañang some days ago. Like Dorothy, Divina is now a professional.

"I'll be here up to March to polish my game," Divina, towering at 5-foot-7, would tell me during a break. "I'll go to Q School (Qualifying) in Florida and hope to get my card for the LPGA Tour like my sis Dorothy Joy."

Dorothy had bought a share at Eastridge for Divina's use. But as a bonus, John Blanche and Lewis Rissman had graciously offered Divina free use of Riviera during her stay here. What a pair.

Oops! I almost forgot. Best wishes to Issa Dalena, who will tie the knot today at the famous church of Pakil, Laguna.

Dandan, Villarete lead 1st-day winners

KYLE Dandan of Colegio de San Agustin and Raymond Villarete of La Salle-Greenhills downed separate rivals yesterday to lead the first-round winners in the boys' 16-under division of the Phila/Head-Penn Tennis Tour Masters at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Dandan outplayed James Murrell, 6-2, 6-0 to advance against third seed Janji Soquino while Villarete defeated Edison Santiago, 6-4, 6-3 to advance against Julianito Jopia.

In other matches, Ken Borromeo beat Perene Alina, 7-5, 6-3; Renz Jon

De Villa rallied past Yamashita So, 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 and Bryan Dayleg turned back William Murrell, 6-4, 2-6, 10-8.

In the boys' 14-under class, Jonathan Murrell whipped Rodol Navarro, 6-1, 6-1; Mikoff Manduriao survived Ogie Reynoso, 7-6 (7), 5-7, 8-6 and Bryan Lontok outstaided Winston Aquino, 6-3, 6-4 to gain second-round berths.

In the boys' 12-under category, Akio Sy of New Life Learning center defeated Rodol Navarro, 6-4, 6-1 and Tomic Apacible of Ateneo dumped John Allan Quinatadcan, 6-1,

6-0 to join Jonathan Murrell, Jose Lorenz Opulencia, Carlos Espidido and Rodol Navarro in the next round.

Meanwhile, fourth seed Ma. Angelica Ngo beat Marianne Salvacion, 6-4, 6-1, and No. 7 Kristel Samala defeated KC Lopez, 6-1, 6-2 to arrange a second-round showdown in the girls' 18-under division.

Other winners were No. 5 Karen Reyes over Marietta Erorita, 6-1, 6-0; No. 6 Krissy Alina over Meg Salvacion, 6-0, 6-1 and No. 8 Marja Bernardo over Anna Martinez, 6-4, 6-4.

Guba, Zoleta score 2 victories apiece at Rizal

YANNICK Guba of St. Benilde-Bacolod and Bambi Zoleta of Mary Hill College-Lucena scored double victories yesterday at the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Guba bagged the boys' 18-under title

over Ian de Guzman, 6-2, 6-1 and annexed the 16-under crown after pulling off a 6-2, 6-2 win over Jandrick de Castro of Veterans Memorial Tennis Club.

Zoleta defeated Jessica Agra of Colegio de San Agustin, 6-3, 6-3, to capture the girls' 12-under trophy. She

also nailed the unisex 10-under over Gerard Ngo of Lourdes School, 6-4, 6-3.

Tracy Bautista of Emilio Aguinaldo College-Cavite was crowned girls' 18-under champion after Bernardine Sepulveda of Sacred Heart School-Cebu retired due to upset stomach.

YEARENDER

PBL survives biggest crisis, thanks to fans—and Palace

BY DENNIS U. EROA

BUFFETED by problems, it's a wonder that the 17-year-old PBL survived 2001 at all.

But things appear rosy in 2002 for the league, if PBL board chair Dioceldo Sy is to be believed.

"I believe that Chino (Commissioner Trinidad) knows what he's doing. And he's doing it right. He's ready to face risks but at the same time, he moves with caution. Really, it's all about teamwork," Sy said.

Sy owns Blu Detergent Kings and

co-owns Shark Energy Drink with Raul Panlilio.

The league moved solidly after it had won its battle against the Games and Amusements Board. The GAB's old ruler had decreed the PBL to be a professional league, a decision that was promptly thrown away by Malacañang "for lack of merit."

Had the previous GAB administration's ruling not been overruled by the Palace, the PBL would have died a natural death due to the departure from the league by schools from both the UAAP and NCAA.

Ateneo and La Salle are presently campaigning in the PBL Challenge Cup.

"I never doubted that the league will survive this crisis. Our position is right and lawful," Trinidad said.

Trinidad has made a policy regarding recruitment of college players.

"We will not force a college player to play in the PBL," he said. "His decision to join the PBL is his alone."

The year started on a torrid note, with newcomer Shark Energy Drink posting a gigantic upset after besting top favorite Welcoat Paints, 4-3, in the best-of-seven playoffs which drew

large crowds at the Makati Coliseum.

Handled by Leo Austria with assistants Dayong Mendoza and Boy Galabin, the Energy Drink Kings trailed 0-2, but came back in style to win their first title.

Welcoat, however, wasn't in the mood to back down from a good fight. It retained the Alaxan-Chairman's Cup in overpowering style over Shark last June. The 4-0 win equalled the same mark it had registered against Shark in the 2000 Chairman's Cup.

Jojo Manalo and Chester Tolomia emerged Finals MVPs in the Chairman

and Challenge Cups, respectively.

Veteran mentor Nat Canson also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the PBL Press Corps last June. Canson, who coached GIV Beauty Soap, formally bade goodbye to coaching.

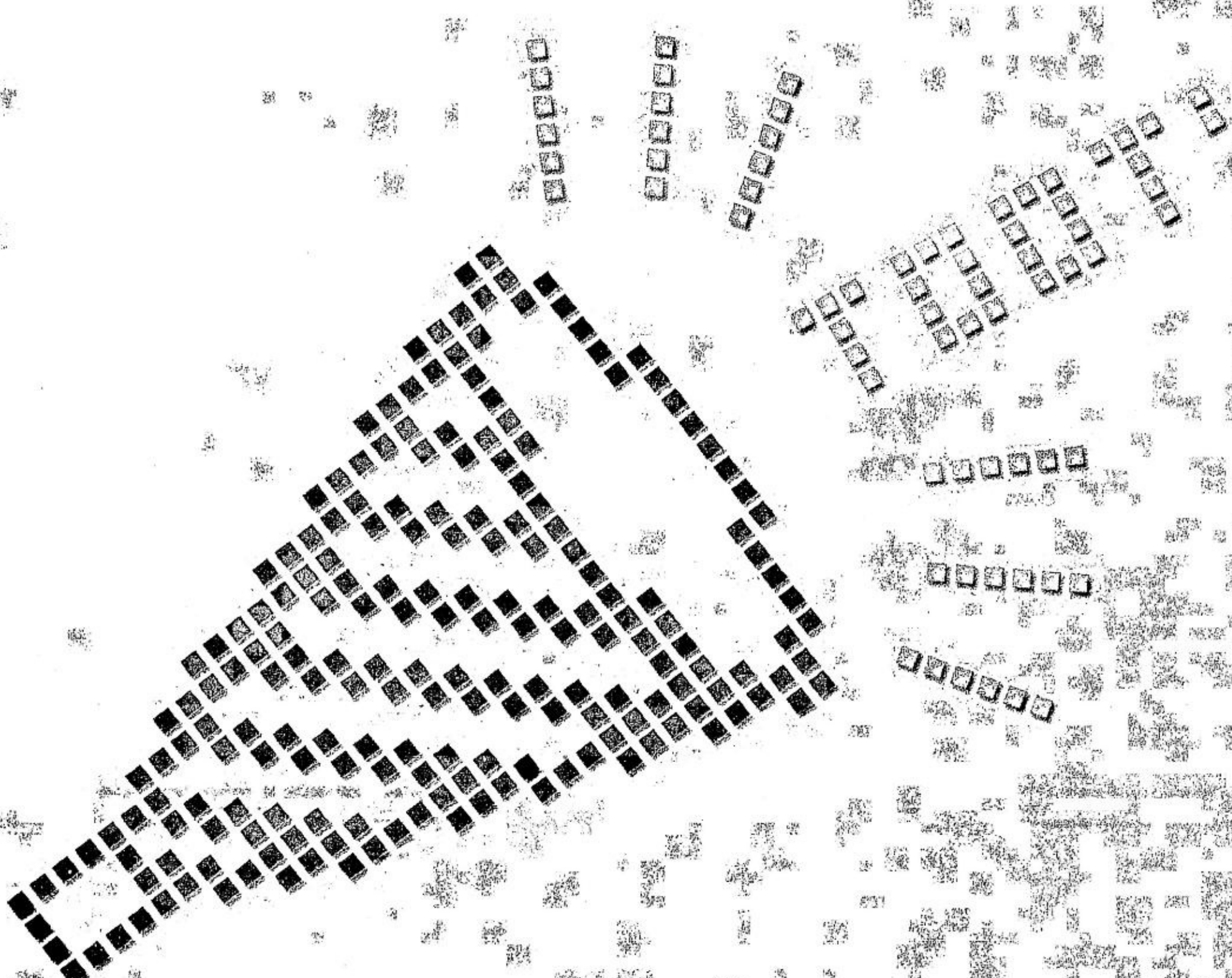
Just like in the past, PBL stars will try their luck in the PBA draft. But Trinidad and Sy are the least worried.

"This happens annually. The PBL has shown it can survive. The league is delighted to play a part in the molding of future basketball stars," said Sy. "We survive because we think nothing but to help young players."



SY

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

THE YEAR THAT WAS MANILA

Rebellions, vicious political rows defined city's character

BY JEROME ANING

IN THE YEAR 2001, residents of the nation's capital survived a revolution, a rebellion, a three-way mayoral battle, a lawmaker's struggle against extradition, a squabble over a 140-year-old park and the closure of an oil facility.

What Manilans saw and experienced in that year, reverberated throughout the archipelago.

But residents emerged from all these with an even temper, coping with things the way only a Manilan can.

It has been 430 years since the city was founded by the Spaniards, but Manila continues to evolve. Events continue to shape the city's character, giving its residents vitality.

These were the events that, in 2001, took Manila by storm:

WPD turns 100

On Jan. 8, with the capital still recovering from Rizal Day bombings the previous year, the Western Police District celebrated its 100th foundation day.

President Estrada exhorted the WPD to continue to support his administration and keep the peace at the height of the impeachment trial.

But WPD director Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr. was among the first high-ranking police officials to withdraw his support for Mr. Estrada and cast in his lot with those at the Edsa Shrine, staging People Power II.

On March 16, Razon was succeeded by his mista, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos, Jr. the new director, whose performance after nine months was branded by several

councilors as "unsatisfactory."

On Jan. 20, Some 50,000 militant protesters marched to the historic Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) bridge to press Mr. Estrada to step down from power.

The bridge, held by Estrada supporters since Jan. 16, was "captured" by anti-Estrada groups after a brief clash.

The disgraced Chief Executive, his family and close aides later left the Presidential Palace via the Pasig River.

The Chua kidnap-murder and the ROTC reformation

On March 15, engineering student Mark Chua, 19, was abducted at the University of Sto. Tomas and was found dead in the Pasig River three days later.

Investigation later showed that his killing had something to do with

his exposé on corruption and other anomalies in the UST Reserved Officer Training Corps program.

Chua's death triggered a debate on whether the ROTC should be reformed, abolished, or replaced with a more useful course.

A signature campaign in favor of abolition was launched on July 9. Militant student groups boycotted and barricaded ROTC classes.

On June 26, the Commission on Higher Education supported the "optionalization" of the ROTC, which was approved by the Department of National Defense on July 7.

A bill on the replacement of the ROTC with a course on community services remains pending at Congress.

Several UST ROTC officials were sacked because of Chua's exposé.

REBELLIONS/A20



LOYALISTS AT THE GATES

The fanatical followers of deposed President Estrada tried to breach the formation of riot policemen positioned just outside the gates of Malacañang on May 17. The Estrada loyalists came to within inches of the Palace grounds before they were repulsed by riot police and members of the Presidential Security Group who rallied round President Macapagal-Arroyo.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Korina maid wants ABS-CBN to kick out broadcaster

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE MAID of ABS-CBN broadcaster Korina Sanchez is now asking the network giant to silence and suspend their controversial newsreader and radio talk show host.

Sanchez's lawyer also announced they are set to file countercharges against the broadcaster's housemaid Bernadita Inocencio, 42.

In a letter to ABS-CBN President Freddie Garcia dated yesterday, Inocencio, through her counsel lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio, sought the "immediate suspension" of Sanchez for being "morally unfit."

The other day, Inocencio also sent a letter to the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas to investigate Sanchez and to yank her off the air.

"Ms Inocencio is in reality saying that, in view of Ms. Sanchez's alleged conduct, particularly in her alleged use of some ABS-CBN personnel, she has shown herself to be 'morally unfit' to continue being a broadcaster, and that she has in fact smeared the good name of ABS-CBN," Mauricio said in the letter.

KORINA MAID/A20

NBI: Nida pals know killer's identity

BY JEROME ANING

TWO persons close to slain screen actress Nida Blanca "definitely know" who the mastermind is, a ranking NBI official told reporters yesterday.

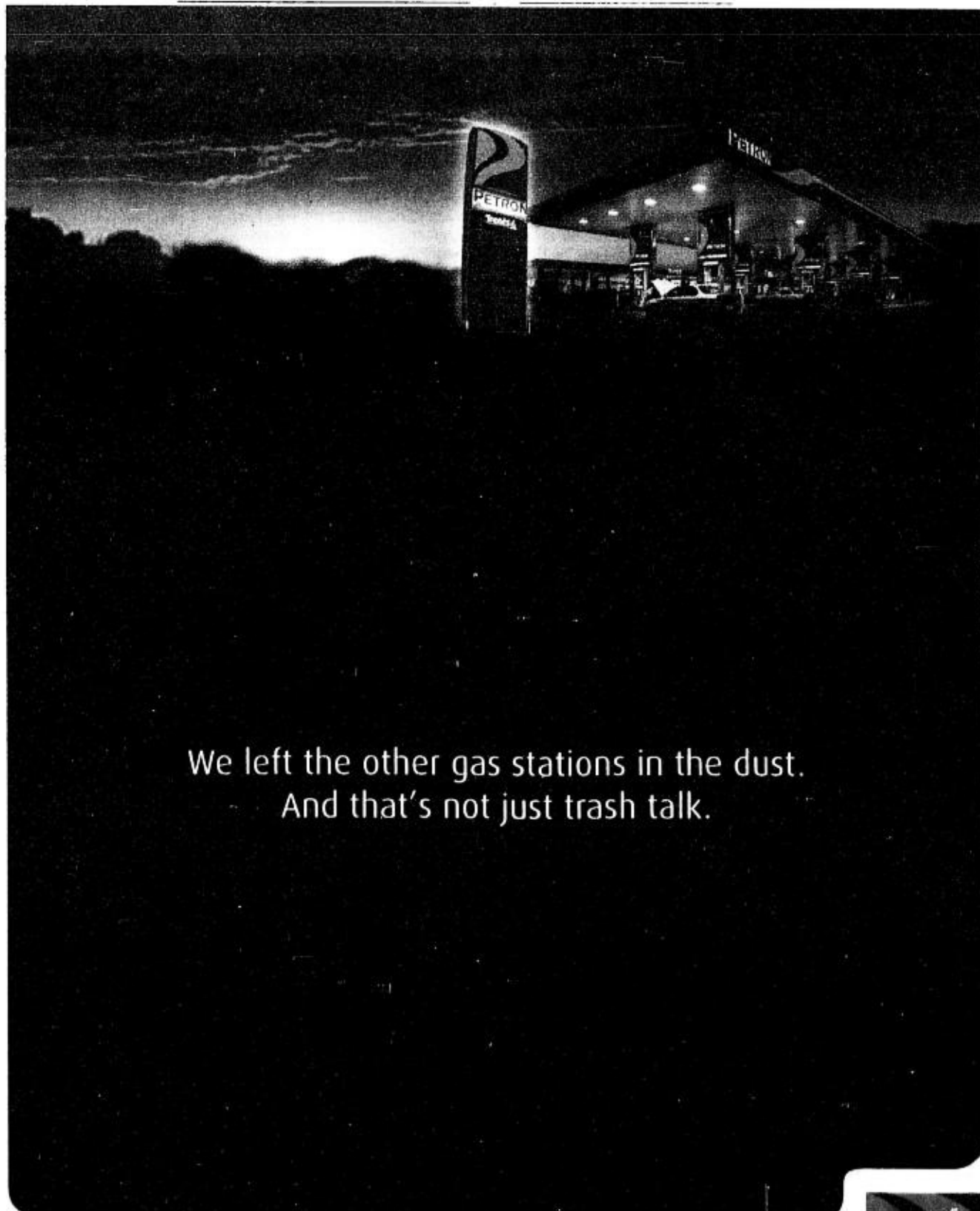
But because they themselves are in on the conspiracy to murder the actress, or they are covering up for someone, the two friends will not dare disclose the mastermind's identity, the official added.

The NBI agents hope that, in the course of their investigation, the two friends will commit a slip and give away vital clues or evidence pinning them to the crime, the source said.

The official said the two suspects are "close family friends" of the actress and were quite well known in show business because they are often seen accompanying the victim during important business dealings.

"Whenever there is money involved in any of Ms Blanca's transactions, these two are always beside her, one to record the transaction, and the other to carry or safeguard the money," said the source.

The official said the two were tagged by several witnesses as among Blanca's last companions when she left the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board office in San Juan on Nov. 6.

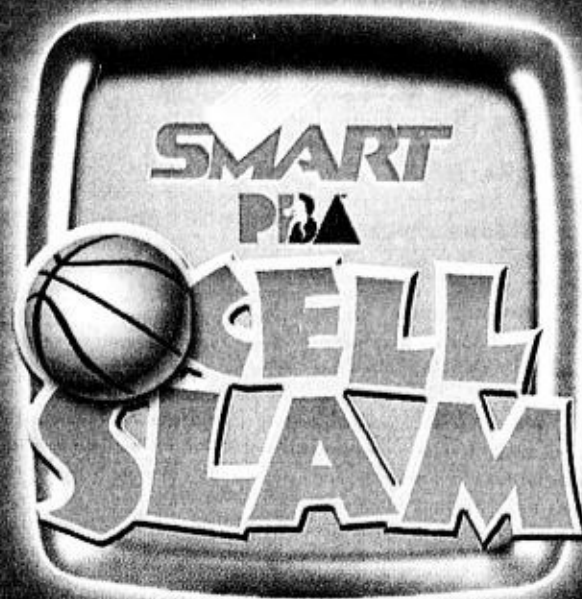


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A teacher returns to the classroom

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES

I HAVE Cheche Lazaro to blame for bringing me back to school. She gave my name to the College of Broadcast Communications as a possible lecturer for a writing course during the second semester of this school year.

It has been almost 17 years since I last faced a class. That's close to almost two decades.

The last time I taught a class all papers submitted were manually typewritten, hand-outs were mimeographed in very dark brown paper or extremely crisp newsprint, and personal computers still belonged to the imagination of sci-fi writers.

Times have changed tremendously. Before, there was no need to declare a once-and-for-all warning that text messaging was forbidden even if your life depended on it, all cell phones must be placed on silent mode, and you did not have to answer questions like, "Sir, what font shall we use in our assignments? How many points should we follow in the size of the lettering?"

Sanity and sanctity

But some things can never change. Students are students, and their youthful vigor and enthusiasm are enough to pump adrenaline into an otherwise jaded mind like mine. Jaded, yes, by the world of show business where everyone is either ducking a scandal, creating a scandal or grandstanding to the point of the scandalous.

The sanity and sanctity of the classroom not only refreshes but also invigorates. I can still sense a glimpse of hope, no matter how faint, in the remaining idealism of kids.

I was extremely nervous the first day I entered my classroom at UP. I have not done this for the longest time, and

meeting a class of 16 students regularly in a course called Television Scriptwriting goes far beyond a one-shot lecture. When you have to meet the same audience regularly, no amount of grandiloquence and posturing can save your day. Even if, and especially because, you are dealing with kids, your true motives and the stuff you are made of can be easily identified. I am assuming that I am now dealing with the Magpakatotoo Ka Generation.

That is probably why teaching is such a thankless profession. But nobody goes into teaching to make money—unless you own and run the school and couldn't care less if you hand out diplomas like promo flyers for pizzas.

Teaching is also an expensive profession because expertise does not and cannot end with whatever load of graduate units you add to your curriculum vitae. A teacher is a relentless student, and we all know how expensive it is to buy books, to keep abreast of the latest developments and at the same time to be expected to do research.

That was the reason why I gave up teaching in the mid-'80s. In your late 20s, you want more than much because of the high expectations you set for your life. You think you can do everything and anything—including teaching three straight hour-long classes starting at 8 a.m. and then doing two more sessions in the afternoon.

The martyrdom of a teacher is often

mentioned since, well, this profession is really more of a vocation. It can come close to being a Christian missionary in a land of cannibal pygmies.

Idealistic days

I remember the stunned look on my father's face when I told him I had decided to accept the offer of De La Salle University for me to be a full-time teacher. He did not discourage me, but neither did he jump up and down with glee. He had always

underestimated the power of your influence on young minds.

I used to go into a trance each time I lectured in class, putting up a performance to stimulate the senses of my captive audience. Or I would practically do somersaults just to keep them awake if the class was at 1 p.m. The exchange of ideas, the discussion of issues, or even the complex bonding between mentor and student, created a different kind of excitement.

A piece of me

It was only years later, after I gave up teaching to be fully involved in the electrifying world of show biz, that I realized how much of myself I have left with young people who sat through my class through the trimsters. I would bump into my "old students," who were now with their discovered personas, transformed into yuppies or even migrants in foreign lands. The pleasure of seeing their smiles and the instant replay of memories of the classroom hours are precious.

When one of them would say, "You know, I can never forget your class...," you realize that there is something more to the dynamics that took place. He may have forgotten who the hell is Clytemnestra and can no longer find relevance in defining the iambic pentameter, but the lesson was the teacher himself.

Just like in making a movie that touches the hearts and minds of the people who truly appreciate what you have done and what you wanted to say, you cannot help but leave a little of yourself in every young mind who has been entrusted in your care.

The lessons may not be all that beau-



wanted me to be a lawyer, and I guess that was why I decided to be a teacher instead.

Besides, during those fiery idealistic days, my ultimate concept of great honor was to have one of the latrines at the St. Joseph Building named after me. Youth gives you the feeling of omnipotence and a very demented view of time. You actually believe that the energy you keep can last forever.

Youth also gave you the license to think that you can conquer the world in any way, even with the things you say and share with your students in the classroom. And somehow, fired by your enthusiasm, you

Security alert up for crime gangs in posh villages

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE HEADS of the Hillsborough Alabang Village, Alabang Hills and Alabang 400 in southern Metro Manila have warned village residents to be extra careful, after attempted abductions and robberies were reported in the area this month.

In a circular issued by the Hillsborough Alabang Village Association to its residents, Lt. Col. Roelito Nolasco, director for security, cautioned residents to lock their cars while driving, especially at night.

In the circular dated Dec. 5, Nolasco also said the village would be enforcing stricter security measures like allowing only vehicles with valid car stickers to enter the village, and installation of additional lights at the village gates. Visitors to Hillsborough will only be allowed entry upon approval of the concerned homeowner.

The circular also said that the three villages would create a joint patrol team to secure Don Jesus Avenue, the main artery leading to the villages.

The warning came after two visitors of a Hillsborough resident were waylaid by four unidentified men at the corner of Don Jesus Avenue and West Service Road on Dec. 2.

According to an incident report by the village security force, a Mr. Joseph was with his wife aboard a vehicle when the incident happened about 11:30 p.m.

The couple had just exited the village, turned right on Don Jesus Avenue and stopped at the intersection, when four men suddenly approached and entered the vehicle. The alert victim and his wife managed to get out of the car and shouted for help.

A security guard at a nearby building, identified as Wenceslao Siemes, responded and fired warning shots. The suspects tried to wrest the gun from the guard, who accidentally fired his .38 revolver hitting one of the suspects.

The suspects then tried to escape, but security guards of the Hillsborough village arrived and were able to arrest one of the men. The unidentified suspect was turned over to the Muntinlupa police that same night.

Nolasco said the same modus operandi was attempted 30 minutes earlier on the same spot. But their target victim had locked the doors of his vehicle, foiling the suspects.

Rebellions...

(From page A19)

Two of them were tagged as suspects in the killing of Chua.

On April 24, two of the suspects were nabbed by the National Bureau of Investigation. Four more were later tagged by witnesses.

The mastermind behind Chua's killing has yet to be identified.

Estrada supporters besiege Malacañang

On May 1, soldiers and policemen dispersed thousands of Estrada supporters who stormed the Presidential Palace and tried to topple the Arroyo government.

A "state of rebellion" was declared by President Arroyo the same day.

The siege, popularly dubbed "Edsa Tres," left four civilians dead and scores, including 13 policemen, injured.

Authorities pegged property damages at P100 million.

A WPD anti-riot operative, PO1 Fausto Grant Saveria, emerged as a hero after he chose to be beaten up rather than fire his gun on Estrada supporters, who ganged up on him as he defended the palace.

Some 50 people arrested during the dispersal were later charged for rebellion and destruction of property, but were released in the custody of Pampanga governor Lito Lapid, whom the President appointed envoy to the urban poor.

An offshoot of the foiled rebellion was the rounding up of dozens of youths from Tondo and other depressed areas in Manila, who were suspected to have participated in the attack on the Palace.

Estrada supporters conducted intermittent protests at the Supreme Court building. The high court was then hearing petitions, questioning President Arroyo's assumption of power and the constitutionality of the plunder law.

Atienza retains City Hall after a three-way fight

Atienza soundly defeated his predecessor, former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim and administration bet Amado Bagatsing during the Mayor 14 elections.

The mayor, a supporter of ousted President Estrada, expressed his desire to cooperate with new President Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 23. Militant anti-Estrada groups called on voters not to reelect him.

tiful; some are even painful. But that is what learning is all about.

I now realize that there were professors in my life who to this very day hold a very special place in my heart. They may not know it, or I may have never thanked them, but when you run through your mental data bank, there are specific names and faces that consistently hold top billing.

Thank you

That is probably why I became a teacher. That is also probably the reason why after 17 years, I have returned to the classroom. It is because of professors like Emerita Quito, Carolina Garcia, Cirilo Bautista and Bro. Andrew Gonzalez that the sense of fulfillment in teaching comes as a sense of obligation, the only way of saying thank you to people who have made you what and who you are.

After all, the world has been diminished to comparisons of bank accounts, assets and measures of popularity. Power seems to be the ultimate gauge for warranting admiration.

How stupid of me to forget that the true power comes from people who mold lives and provoke ideas, whether in a moviehouse or a classroom. How much more exciting it is to think that teaching is not merely justifying and perpetuating the status quo but challenging young minds to want more, to demand more and to go farther than the parochial thinking of their elders and so-called leaders.

Now I face 16 students once a week for three hours to discover an entirely new world. They may not realize it yet, but as much as they think they are learning from me, I am learning more from them. They are providing me with my only remaining reasons to have a sense of hope amid all the mess that the world has become.

And that, believe me, is more priceless, more timeless, than any media exposure, any directorial or writing trophy, or any assumption of the measures of personal success.

The bullet had his name on it

BY AGNES E. DONATO

THERE was nothing Jeorge Aguilar could do, for the stray bullet that took his life apparently had his name on it.

Aguilar, 33, of Celina Homes, Deparo, Calocan City, was just minding his own business, when he came across some fruit vendors who were squabbling among themselves over their daily dues along General Luis Avenue, Novaliches, Quezon City, about 6 a.m. Thursday.

Police said vendor Isidro Pagsulingan, 26, was also hurt in the shooting.

Pagsulingan and his mother were plying their trade when the two suspects, who were also vendors, arrived to collect their daily dues, police said. Soon the four of them were having a heated argument over the money.

One of the suspects then allegedly passed a handgun of unknown caliber to his companion, identified only as a certain Mario.

Mario fired the gun and hit Pagsulingan in the right side of his body.

As the suspects fled, Mario allegedly fired another shot, and hit Aguilar, who just happened to be passing by.

Aguilar was taken to the Quezon City General Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 8 p.m.

His body was taken to the Philippine National Police crime laboratory for autopsy.

Police are now looking for the two suspects.

President Arroyo backed the closure on Sept. 18. The Department of Energy reached a deal with the oil firms on Oct. 17, wherein both sides agreed that a one-year study will be conducted first before the depot will be phased out in 12 years, beginning 2003.

On Nov. 7, Metro Manila mayors passed a resolution supporting the phaseout.

DENR Secretary Alvarez's thumbed down Manila City Hall's plan calling for a shorter phaseout period. This led city councilors to declare Alvarez as persona non grata in Manila on Nov. 15.

Rejecting the opposition of the fuel firms, the Council passed on Nov. 20 an ordinance reclassifying the 30-hectare depot site from industrial to commercial.

The law was signed by Atienza on Dec. 7; he gave the oil firms until June 30 to cease operations.

Sept. 11 terror attacks in the U.S. affects Manila

Like the rest of the world, Manila was shocked by the terror attacks in Washington D.C. and New York City that left more than 3,000 people dead.

On Sept. 17, Malacañang announced that one of the hijackers may have been in Manila, days before the US attack.

The Philippine Postal Corp. and Health Department, both based in Manila, sought to allay the anthrax scare that followed the terror blitz.

The US-led attack on Afghanistan to destroy Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda group, and their Taliban supporters, caused Manila's Muslim community to grow restive and demand redress for their grievances.

Atienza proposed the appointment to the city council of a sectoral representative from the Muslim community.

Velma Cinco ambush-slay

On Nov. 20, Velma Cinco, 62, education and information division chief of the Commission on Elections, was driving to work when she was ambushed and killed by unidentified gunmen in Sta. Ana.

Cinco's death intensified the feud between Comelec commissioners and was used by a councilor to justify his proposal to arm civilians so that they could defend themselves from criminals.

Cinco's predecessor, Angelina Matibag, figured in the case after Matibag's aide Mario Francisco was tagged among the suspects. The alleged triggerman, Ronaldo Robles, was later arrested and charged with murder.

The NBI and WPD have yet to come up with the identity and motive of the mastermind.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 30, 2001
Holy Family

1st Reading:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

For the Lord established that children should respect their father; he confirmed the right of the mother over her sons.

Whoever honors his father atones for his sins; he who gives glory to his mother prepares a treasure for himself.

Whoever honors his father will receive joy from his own children and will be heard when he prays.

Whoever glorifies his father will have a long life. Whoever obeys the Lord gives comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father in his old age, do not cause him sorrow as long as he lives.

Even if he has lost his mind, have patience; do not be disrespectful to him while you are in full health.

For kindness done to one's father will never be forgotten, it will serve as reparation for your sins.

2nd Reading:

Col 3:12-21

Clothe yourselves, then, as it is fitting for God's chosen people, holy and beloved of him. Put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience to bear with one another and forgive whenever there is any occasion to do so. As the Lord has forgiven you, forgive one another. When you have put on all these, take love as your belt so that the dress be perfect. May the peace of Christ overflow in your hearts; for this end you were called to be one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of God dwell in you in all its richness. Teach and admonish one another with words of wisdom. With thankful hearts sing to God psalms, hymns and spontaneous praise. And whatever you do or say, do it in the Name of Jesus, the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as you should do in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not get angry with them. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because that pleases the Lord. Parents, do not be too demanding of your children, lest they become discouraged.

Gospel:

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you for Herod will soon be looking for the child in order to kill him."

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. In this way, what the Lord had said through the prophet was fulfilled: *I called my son out of Egypt.*

After Herod's death, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go back to the land of Israel, because those who tried to kill the child are dead." So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

But when Joseph heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judea, he was afraid to go there. He was given further instructions in a dream, and went to the region of Galilee.

There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way what was said by the prophets was fulfilled: *He shall be called a Nazorean.*

Commentary

The Holy Family was the ideal family. Everyone in the family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph—was pleasing to God. Yet God allowed them to be persecuted, migrate, and then finally return to Israel and settle in Nazareth. All this led to the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah. Sometimes we wonder why families whose members are very good or very outstanding in the practice of their faith undergo much disturbance in their lives. God does not guarantee a tranquil life to those who love him. He does guarantee that they will be victorious like the Holy Family if they obey God like them.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Liquidation and Rehabilitation—Liquidation, in corporation law, connotes a winding up or setting with creditors and debtors. It is the winding up of a corporation so that assets are distributed to those entitled to receive them. It is the process of reducing assets to cash, discharging liabilities and dividing surplus or loss. On the opposite end of the spectrum is rehabilitation which connotes a reopening or reorganization. Rehabilitation contemplates a continuance of corporate life and activities in an effort to restore and reinstate the corporation to its former position of successful operation and solvency. It is crystal clear that the concept of liquidation is diametrically opposed or contrary to the concept of rehabilitation, such that both cannot be undertaken at the same time. To allow liquidation proceedings to continue would seriously hinder the rehabilitation of the subject bank. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Philippine Veterans Bank v. Vega, G.R. No. 105364, June 28, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ETHEL	REVEL	LIMA	SAM
ARAMIS	IRENE	ERIN	PLO
RUNUPMYCREDITCARDDEBT			
PEG	ADK	AYE	RENEE
SPRY	TOPIC	MENDEL	
WATCHMORETALKSHOWS			
EMBODY	UNTIL	PUN	EDAM
VEST	VISOR	BRET	AMA
ESP	SCENE	BOISE	FRET
SPOT	STERN	CLINE	
GAINABOUTTWENTYPOUNDS			
AMBIT	PROOF	AIDE	
LAST	SHREW	HALEY	PEP
ATE	LOOK	OBESE	TILE
SINS	ASA	AVANT	PRISON
NEVEREXERCISEAGAIN			
MASONS	VERSE	HATE	
ALCOA	ARE	BEN	SKI
STOPMAKINGRESOLUTIONS			
SAN	EPIC	WOVEN	TINSEL
ERE	LENO	BWANA	STOWE

Korina maid wants ABS-CBN...

(From page A19)

Because of this, Mauricio said, Inocencio "would now like to formally request for the immediate suspension of Ms Sanchez from all her duties and responsibilities with your good network, including, but not limited to, her radio and TV broadcasting work, while the KBP investigation against her is pending."

Mauricio said the "witnesses" against Sanchez "who may come from ABS-CBN, may feel freer to testify if she is removed from her position of responsibility."

The lawyer also said his client is "ready, able and willing to participate and prove her charges" if an investigation of Sanchez is conducted by ABS-CBN.

Pat-P Daza, corporate communications manager of ABS-CBN, refused to comment on the letter, saying she had still to contact Garcia.

Sanchez's lawyer Salvador Panelo asserted that the

"constitutional right of presumption of innocence applies to everyone."

"There is no ground or reason for her (Sanchez's) suspension, because there has to be a hearing first, assuming there is a case and there is prima facie evidence," Panelo said.

He also blasted Mauricio and said "he (Mauricio) is the last person to file that case because, as a broadcaster, he is violating the ethics of the industry for reporting and peddling the lies of his client before the public."

When asked to comment on Panelo's statement, Mauricio only laughed it off.

"Again, I will not dignify anything he says about me as a lawyer, because that is not the issue here," Mauricio said.

Panelo said he and his client are preparing to file countercharges of grave threats and oral defamation against Inocencio.

What more can Gary V. ask for?

A SIGNATURE microphone and a much-coveted trophy as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Filipinos (formerly Ten Outstanding Your Men or TOYM) of 2001.

What more can pop idol Gary Valenciano ask for?

Gary made major strides this year, capped by the two added blessings to his illustrious career.

Last Dec. 8, Sennheiser, a popular brand of top-notch microphones and headphones, launched the limited edition microphones, which bear Gary's signature.

Gary is the first artist to be commissioned by Sennheiser to have his name stamped on its microphones, distributed in the country by Yupangco Music Corporation.

Gary informs the line of microphone he is now endorsing is the same one used in the Manila productions of "Miss Saigon," "Rent" and "Little Mermaid." It was also used in the recent staging of "Ben-Hur" in Singapore.

"You will not sound like Gary V or any artist you dream of if you use this microphone," Gary says. "But it will give you a clear copy of your voice. The quality is excellent. It can be used anywhere, even in outdoor shows."

Gary has selflessly taken advantage of his latest product endorsement. As the Unicef ambassador of goodwill, he has made a commitment to donate a percentage of the sales of the microphones to the worldwide organization.

Last Dec. 11, Gary was in

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio



performance by a male artist for the song, "Lupa."

His website, www.garyv.com, made it to the list of the Top 10 best designed websites for celebrities and personalities in the 4th Philippine web awards, proving himself to be a true multi-media artist.

Early this year, Gary opened the new concert venue, Onstage in Greenbelt, with a successful 10-night concert series. He also did performances in and out of the country—in Cebu, Tokyo, Bangkok, United States and New Zealand.

He ends 2001 with a free concert on New Year's Eve at The Fort.

As the first Unicef ambassador of goodwill for the Philippines, Gary also makes a stand with his "Say Yes to Kids" TV ad. The commercial earned a nomination in the recently concluded Emmy Awards in New York.

As the official spokesperson of the worldwide organization, Gary has visited a number of outreach centers in provinces like Guimaras. He has likewise participated in various projects for Filipino children.

Despite the dwindling economy, Gary believes entertainment stays afloat, so local artists like him are still busy with live gigs.

"When times go bad, entertainment is the last one to go down," Gary says. "In fact, this month alone has been one of my busiest. Even my inspirational shows were well received."

On top of all the career breaks, awards, concerts and endorsements, Gary gets solid support from his family. His wife, Angeli Pangilinan, even acts as his manager. His three children, although not totally entrenched into the music scene, have taken after his talents. In fact, his daughter Kiana won the best child recording artist and best Christmas recording trophies in the Aliw Awards, for "Once Again It's Christmas," a song which Gary composed.

So the fact that Gary is able to maintain steady popularity and successful career is not really surprising.

TRO

GMA Network filed a temporary restraining order (TRO) against broadcaster Luchi Cruz-Valdez and ABS-CBN for breach of contract.

Luchi, who recently left GMA and joined ABS-CBN, has an exclusive contract with GMA, where she is host of "I-Witness," writer of "Saksi," segment host for "Unag Hirit" and reporter for "Brigada Siete." Her contract will expire on Aug. 19, 2002, but she decided to join ABS-CBN last Oct. 15.

In an order dated Dec. 28, 2001, Judge Rogelio M. Pizarro of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court ordered a TRO against Luchi and ABS-CBN.

Luchi's live talent agreement with GMA stipulates that she is "prohibited from rendering for compensation or otherwise any service for or in any other TV, radio, cable or Internet production of any person, firm, corporation or entity without the prior consent of GMA."



FOLLOW-UP SINGLE

Not content with the enormous success of the first single and title track of their latest album, "Baby, I Love You" under BMG Music Pilipinas, J Brothers promptly release a follow-up, "Sorry, Mahal." J Brothers members Joy, Jay, Jim and Jack debuted in the mid-'90s with "New Horizon" that sold more than 20,000 copies. The band has charted hits like "Dear Ana," "Sana'y Bigyan Mo Ng Pansin," "Wait For Me" and "Labanan ang Tukso" among others. They also continue to be a force in the live scene with sold-out stints both here and abroad. Among the new tracks in "Baby, I Love You" are "Di Ba't Sabi Mo," "Pwede Ba," "abonuscut," "Sweetheart."

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3RD BEST PICTURE



jaymanalo

wendell ramos

alessandra de rossi

assunta de rossi

JOEL C. LAMANGAN, dir.

FHM

MTRCB
RATING

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LINES

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OPENS JANUARY 16!



AND A HAPPY family to boot. The Valencianos—Gary with wife Angeli and children Gabriel (second from left), Paolo and Kiana.

Flashback scenes . . . (From page A23)

viewers' attention from straying. Also helpful is the movie's adroit editing, which weaves period and modern scenes together by using similar visual motifs.

This indicates that Roño and his technical team have thought this movie through in detail, and "Yamashita" is the better for it. However, the same attention should have been paid to keeping the plot not just more eventful but

also more significant, to make this particular retelling of the Yamashita treasure story more meaningful and affective than past TV-film efforts.

Four awards

AT the recent Golden Dove Awards for radio and television, Monster Radio RX 93.1 won four radio awards—Best FM Station, Best Comedy Program ("Countdown Top Seven"), Best Drama Program ("The Love Clinic"), and Best

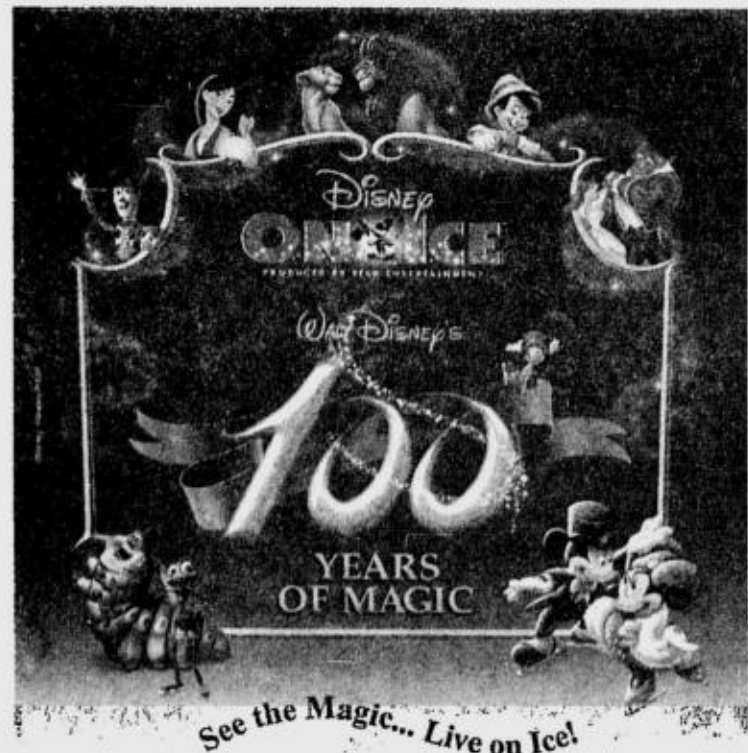
Musical Variety Program ("The RX Concert Series"), all in the Metro Manila division.

Earlier this year, the Catholic Mass Media Awards also honored the station's "Back to the Seventies—And Beyond" special as Best Entertainment Program for Radio. And the RX 93.1 website (www.rx931.com) won the Fourth Philippine Web Awards trophy for People's Choice in the Media Category.

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DEC. 31	Mon		(REST DAY)	
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JAN. 2	Wed			8:00 pm
JAN. 3	Thu			8:00 pm
JAN. 4	Fri			8:00 pm
JAN. 5	Sat	1:00 pm	4:30 pm	8:00 pm
JAN. 6	Sun	1:00 pm	4:30 pm	8:00 pm

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SUPERMALLS

According to Associate Justice Raul M. Victoria of the Sandiganbayan, chairman of the Golden Jubilee Commission

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3 YAMASHITA In Dolby Digital Sound	3 BAHAY NI LOLA In Dolby Digital Sound	3 YAMASHITA In Dolby Digital Sound	3 TATARIN In Dolby Digital Sound
4 HINDI KITA MA-REACH In Dolby Digital Sound	4 TATARIN In Dolby Digital Sound	4 HINDI KITA MA-REACH In Dolby Digital Sound	4 HUBOG In Dolby Digital Sound

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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2 BAHAY NI LOLA	2 BAHAY NI LOLA	2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 BAGONG BUWAN	3 BAGONG BUWAN	3 DI KA MAREACH
4 HUBOG	4 DI KA MAREACH	4 YAMASHITA
5 TATARIN	5 TATARIN	5 TATARIN
6 SUSMAYOSEPI (4 FATHERS)	6 SUSMAYOSEPI (4 FATHERS)	6 BAGONG BUWAN
7 DI KA MAREACH	7 HUBOG	7 SUSMAYOSEPI (4 FATHERS)
8 BAGONG BUWAN	8 HUBOG	8 BAHAY NI LOLA
9 HUBOG		
10 DI KA MAREACH		

NOVALICHES	IMUS
1 HUBOG	1 DI KA MAREACH
2 TATARIN	2 SUSMAYOSEPI (4 FATHERS)
3 BAGONG BUWAN	3 TATARIN
4 DI KA MAREACH	4 HUBOG
5 BAHAY NI LOLA	5 YAMASHITA
6 SUSMAYOSEPI (4 FATHERS)	6 BAHAY NI LOLA
7 YAMASHITA	
8 BAGONG BUWAN	

BAGOLOD	ILOILO
1 YAMASHITA	1 BAGONG BUWAN
2 HUBOG	2 YAMASHITA
3 BAHAY NI LOLA	3 HUBOG
4 ROCKSTAR	4 BAHAY NI LOLA
5 PAGDATING NG PANAHON	5 TATARIN
6 MUSKETEER	6 ROCKSTAR

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SUTLA (RE-ISSUE)
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOLBY)	EARTHQUAKE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MVP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SUMMER CATCH
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PISNGI
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MANILA

EASTERN	
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ODEON-2	YAMASHITA
ROBEN	HUBOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HUBOG
REMAR	BAGONG BUWAN
REMAR-2	YAMASHITA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	YAMASHITA
B	BAHAY NI LOLA
C	HUBOG

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-2	THE MUSKETEER

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	HUBOG
CINEMA-3	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DI KITA MA-REACH
CINEMA-5 (DOLBY)	TATARIN
CINEMA-6	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-7	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-8	HUBOG
CINEMA-9 (DOLBY)	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-12	TATARIN
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	FOUR FATHERS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	HUBOG
CINEMA-2	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-3	TATARIN
CINEMA-4	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-5	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-6	BAGONG BUWAN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

A22 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2001

Filmfest entries at Greenhills Theater

TWO entries in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival—"Bagong Buwan" and "Tatarin"—are now being shown at the newly renovated Greenhills Theater Mall.

Aside from the cinemas, the Greenhills Theater Mall also offers endless dining treats with its wide array of restaurants and bars, where moviegoers can dine and drink after watching a movie.

The mall also houses boutiques and specialty shops to satisfy the customer's shopping needs.

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2 BAHAY NI LOLA	2 HUBOG
3 YAMASHITA	3 BAGONG BUWAN
4 BAGONG BUWAN	4 YAMASHITA
5 BAGONG BUWAN	5 TATARIN
6 BAHAY NI LOLA	6 BAHAY NI LOLA
7 4 FATHERS	7 4 FATHERS
8 HUBOG	8 BAGONG BUWAN

CENTERPOINT	SOUTH MALL
1 BAHAY NI LOLA	1 BAGONG BUWAN
2 TATARIN	2 DI KITA MA-REACH
3 YAMASHITA	3 YAMASHITA
4 HUBOG	4 BAHAY NI LOLA
5 BAGONG BUWAN	5 4 FATHERS
6 4 FATHERS	6 BAHAY NI LOLA
7 BAGONG BUWAN	7 TATARIN
8 DI KITA MA-REACH	8 BAGONG BUWAN
9 YAMASHITA	9 YAMASHITA
10 BAHAY NI LOLA	10 HUBOG

CITY FAIRVIEW	GUADALUPE COMM'L
1 YAMASHITA	1 HUBOG
2 DI KITA MA-REACH	2 BAGONG BUWAN
3 TATARIN	3 YAMASHITA
4 BAHAY NI LOLA	4 BAGONG BUWAN
5 BAGONG BUWAN	5 HUBOG
6 BAHAY NI LOLA	6 TATARIN
7 HUBOG	7 TATARIN
8 YAMASHITA	8 HUBOG
9 BAGONG BUWAN	9 TATARIN
10 TATARIN	10 TATARIN

CITY MANILA	ILOILO
1 BAGONG BUWAN	1 HUBOG
2 BAHAY NI LOLA	2 CLOSED
3 TATARIN	3 HARRY POTTER
4 YAMASHITA	4 YAMASHITA
5 BAHAY NI LOLA	5 BAGONG BUWAN
6 HUBOG	6 BAHAY NI LOLA
7 TATARIN	7 CLOSED
8 DI KITA MA-REACH	8 TATARIN
9 BAGONG BUWAN	9 YAMASHITA
10 BAHAY NI LOLA	10 YAMASHITA
11 4 FATHERS	11 YAMASHITA
12 YAMASHITA	12 YAMASHITA

MEGAMALL	PAMPANGA
1 TATARIN	1 BAGONG BUWAN
2 4 FATHERS	2 TATARIN
3 BAGONG BUWAN	3 YAMASHITA
4 YAMASHITA	4 4 FATHERS
5 DI KITA MA-REACH	5 BAHAY NI LOLA
6 BAHAY NI LOLA	6 BAHAY NI LOLA
7 YAMASHITA	7 YAMASHITA
8 BAHAY NI LOLA	8 YAMASHITA
9 BAGONG BUWAN	9 YAMASHITA
10 BAHAY NI LOLA	10 YAMASHITA
11 TATARIN	11 YAMASHITA
12 HUBOG	12 YAMASHITA

TUTUBAN	DAVAO
1 BAGONG BUWAN	1 YAMASHITA
2 BAHAY NI LOLA	2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 YAMASHITA	3 HUBOG
4 4 FATHERS	4 BAGONG BUWAN
	5 TATARIN
	6 MUSKETEER

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Flashback scenes come off best of all in 'Yamashita'

CHITO Roño's "Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure," is one of the most visually striking movies showing in the ongoing Metro Manila Film Festival. In fact, some of its scenes are reminiscent of "Pearl Harbor," a tribute to the productions digital animators.

Another plus point is the fact that quite a number of the movie's scenes were shot in the States, where its lead character, played by **Armando Goyena**, lived before being forced to return to the Philippines to show the latest band of treasure hunters where Yamashita's bullion and billions are buried.

The film's US scenes show that the production was willing to shell out more money than usual, just to make its story believable. Also creditable is the movie's use of actors from different countries to underscore the international aspect of its story.

After a while, however, these plus points begin to lose their luster when we realize that, aside from its impressive period and crowd scenes, this movie's story is really not all that big, and is mainly focused on how Goyena and his grandson (**Danilo Barrios**) are able to foil the big-budget treasure-retrieval operation mounted by one of the Japanese officers originally involved in burying the treasure, some 55 years ago.

This character is played in his old age by veteran character actor **Vic Diaz**, and he and Goyena get an enjoyable acrimonious scene going between them, but that's about it for him.

Most of the movie's scenes focus on Goyena and Barrios, with the young man's friends tossed in for good measure, to add to the movie's appeal to young viewers.

Also interesting is the movie's many flashback scenes, which show how, as youths, Goyena and his younger brother were forced to join the scores of men conscripted to carry and bury the treasure in 1945.

But one key ques-

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

tion presents itself: If Goyena, who was just a conscript, know where the treasure is buried, how come the former Japanese officer played by **Vic Diaz** couldn't locate the site on his own?

In any case, the movie does a good job with its flashback scenes, but is less successful with its contemporary sequences, which tend to feel uneventful after a while, particularly when Barrios' *barkada* enters

the picture.

True, the film is given another villain in the person of a Filipino-speaking Japanese played by **Rustom Padilla**, but he's too busy looking like an

anime character to be genuinely terrifying.

In the end, it's really just the flashback scenes and the Goyena-Barrios tandem that have to keep FLASHBACK/A21



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YAMASHITA - GP 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	BAGONG BUWAN - P 13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	BAGONG BUWAN - P 13 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40

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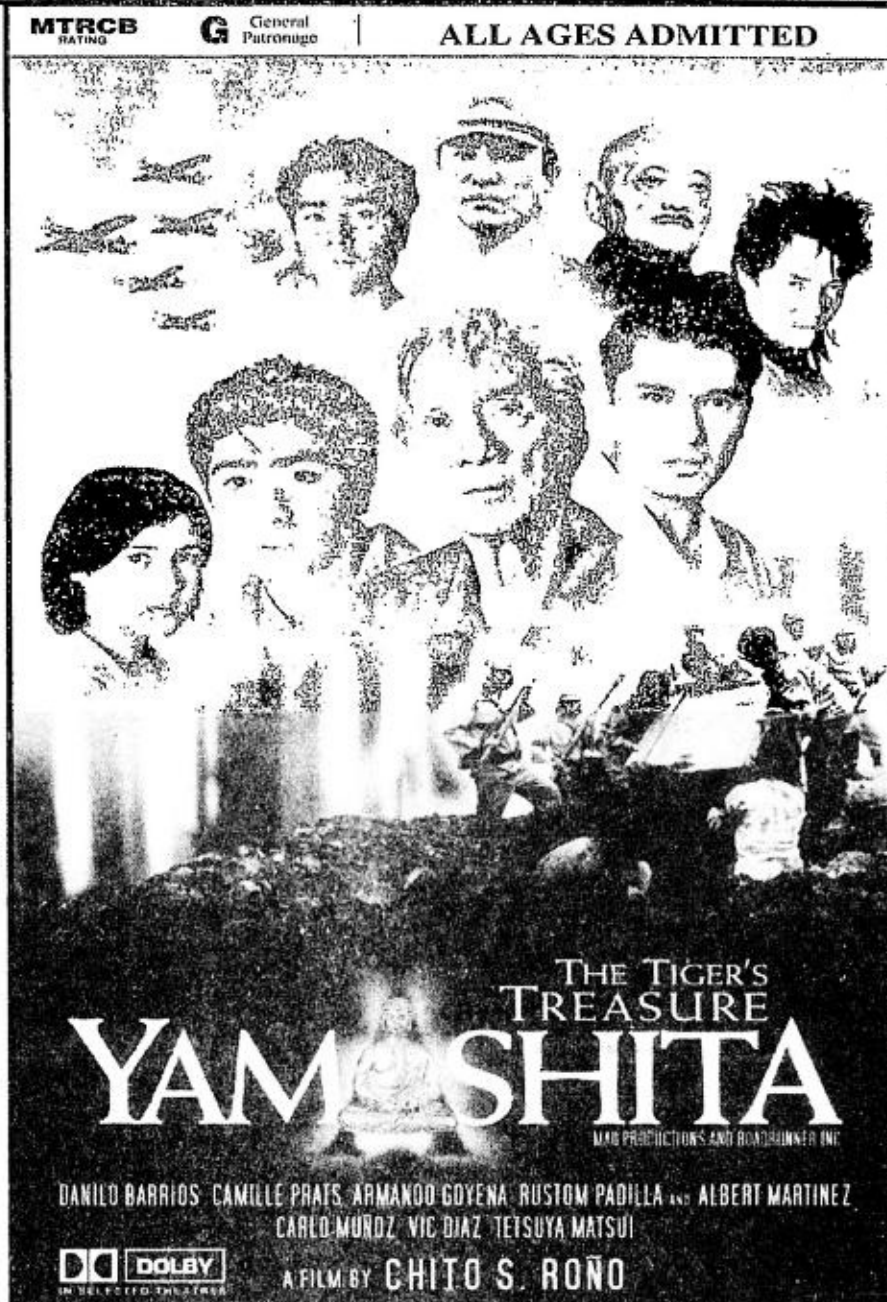
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Recruited into the CIA by Nathan Muir in 1976. Missing in action since 1985.

The year is 1991. A rogue mission fails and Tom Bishop is detained in a prison in China on charges of espionage.

For political reasons, the CIA does not order a rescue.

It is up to Muir to outwit his superiors and save his friend from execution within 24 hours.

Brad PITT

SPY GAME

OPENS JANUARY 9

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NATHAN MUIR
Recruited Tom Bishop into the CIA in 1976. Lost contact with protégé in 1985.

The year is 1991. A rogue mission fails and Tom Bishop is detained in a prison in China on charges of espionage.

For political reasons, the CIA does not order a rescue.

It is up to Muir to outwit his superiors and save his friend from execution within 24 hours.

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MAKATI Shangri-la's Richard Riley wishes for continued growth.



BIR's Rene Bañez wants peace for the Philippines.



SENATORIAL son and head of Cable Television Paco Magsaysay states "I wish for prosperity and peace for my country."



AYALA's Filemon T. Berba wants the Abu Sayyaf problem resolved.

EXECS' NEW YEAR WISHES

Crush the crabs and pump up the economy

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO
AND MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

IF A GENIE suddenly appeared and told the country's executives that he can grant them only one wish, many of them would ask for a less critical citizenry and better economic environment for the Philippines.

SundayBiz informally surveys some top executives and finds out these decision-makers' wishes are the same as those of the simple folk—a better life for all.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura wishes for "a more stable global environment with the speedy recovery of all global economy. What I ask for the Philippines and it will be my wish for myself—if there's a good global economy everyone will benefit from it."

Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez desires "peace in the Philippines and the world and for people to transcend beyond personal interests and think and act for the common good."



WATSON Wyatt's J.P. Orbeta hopes that RP can get away from petty politics.

Bañez's boss, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, wishes the same—that people will be less critical of each other and that Filipinos can be happy about good news about the country as it will benefit all.

Aspac Advertising president Miguel Ramos asks that "we look beyond all the problems and believe that we live in a great country and that we as individuals can make a difference."

J.P. Orbeta, global director of Watson Wyatt Philippines, says he hopes that the Philippines can get its attention away from petty politics and concentrate instead on improving the economy, infrastructure, traffic and garbage.

"I believe that our problem is that we concentrate too much on petty politics that we forget about the big things," Orbeta says.

Makati Shangri-La general manager Richard Riley, on the other hand, wishes continued growth for the Philippines and its people.

"What I wish for is continued growth, prosperity and political stability for the country and to the Filipinos. If these things would come through, businesses will benefit," Riley explains.

Alex Recto

of Amon Marketing also wishes for a better business environment for the good of the people.

"A good business environment, I believe, will not make people turn to crime because there would be employment for all," Recto says.

Filemon T. Berba, managing director of the Ayala group, wants to see the government resolving the Abu Sayyaf problem, sort out the traffic mess and bring former President Joseph Estrada to justice.

"If we can do this then we concentrate on improving the quality and productivity of Philippine businesses," Berba says.

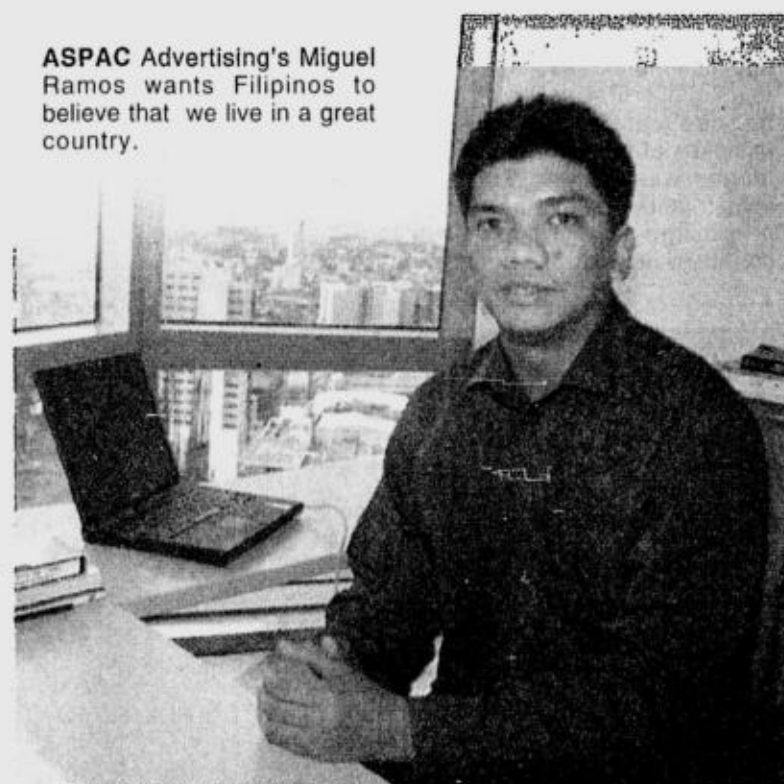
Entertainment Network president Greg Garcia III wishes that "all the whiners, professional demonstrators and selfish and do-nothing-but-oppose-everything politicians suffer amnesia for one year to give GMA the chance to get this country moving."

Land-Excel Consulting chief executive Danilo Antonio hopes "there will be a real honest to goodness and committed government in 2002 plus there will be more teamwork among businessmen to push Philippines Inc."

Entrepreneur Ricco Ocampo of Anonymous and The Kitchen, says: "I wish to be a part in transforming a better image of the Philippines globally—both in food, fashion and the arts."

Wife Tina Maristela wants to receive pledges for Museo Pambata to support their numerous projects. Former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevara and current Ford Foundation executive director wish for a solution of Manila's garbage problem.

ASPAC Advertising's Miguel Ramos wants Filipinos to believe that we live in a great country.



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Printed in the Philippines

IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE



SHARON Cuneta is known as an actress, a singer, mother of KC Concepcion, wife of Sen. Francis Pangilinan. And a very rich woman. But how she became wealthy is largely due to the applications of lessons learned from father Pablo Cuneta who reigned over Pasay City's politics for decades. Cuneta inherited her dad's astute business sense and does not commit the mistakes of her colleagues in show business of spending as if money was infinite. To this day, Cuneta makes sure-fire investments and this has been paying off making her not only one of the richest stars of tinseltown but also one of the country's highest paying individual taxpayers.



FERNANDO Zobel de Ayala, Hong Kong Land CEO Nick Sallnow-Smith and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

It's hot property but will rich bite?

"FROM the beginning, we wanted One Roxas Triangle to set a new standard in luxury living developments in the country, and hopefully in the region," says Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel in his welcome remarks at the official launch of the group's latest residential project.

One Roxas Triangle is a 52-story luxury condominium that covers 11,812 square meters of prime lot between Paseo de Roxas and Makati Avenue.

Buyers and residents of One Roxas Triangle made up the well-heeled crowd that gathered that evening.

With Fernando Zobel leading the ceremonial toast were Ayala Land president Francisco Licuanan, Hong Kong Land Limited chief executive Robert Sallnow-Smith, and SVP for Asset Management and Trust Account of Bank of the Philippine Islands, Adelberto Legasto.

After the program at the lawn, the party continued at the al fresco Parkland located at the podium whose centerpiece is a lagoon-type pool.

While some checked the top-of-the-line facilities at the fitness cen-



PETER Young, Leticia Bella and Marilou Grandridge

ter, sauna, and covered tennis court, not a few took to the earlier invitation to check out the units at the 32nd floor, which promised a view of the city.

Now complete, One Roxas Triangle is one of the hottest properties on the market thanks in part to Ayala Land's reputation for property management. The building is said to be at par with the best buildings in New York and Hong Kong where the standards for building technology are extremely high.

Indian loan sharks inspire radical lending system

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIOCITY—Indian nationals, whose lending expertise have sustained many *sari-sari* stores in the last five decades, have become the inspiration for a radical lending system of the P1-billion rural banking industry.

Rural banks now offer as low as P3,000 in collateral-free loans under a revolutionary micro-finance approach that borrows heavily from itinerant-yet-influential "Bombay" money lenders and creditors, said lawyer Nicolas Lim, president of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP).

And to manage delinquencies, Lim said rural bankers have also stolen the "Bombay" creditors' technique of collecting on the loans every day until these are completely redeemed.

RBAP recently launched the Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS) program for national promotion, after a successful test run in selected rural banks in Mindanao, including Lim's Kapatagan Valley Bank in Lanao del Norte.

Five rural banks in Luzon have been tapped to pilot MABS next year. These are Pangasinan-based Rangay Bank, the Isabela Cooperative Bank, Rural Bank of Florida in Pampanga, the First Macrobank in Bicol, and the Rural Bank of Kabayan in Batangas.

Twenty-eight other rural banks have pledged their participation in MABS, Lim said.

He said MABS recognizes the Filipino poor as a rich "profit center" for banks, whose chief investment targets have affected by the economic crisis.

"Filipino rural bankers now find that (the Filipino poor) are more resilient than the bigger economic sectors, by gauging the events of the economic turmoil (of 1998)," Lim said.

"For example, (the poor) do not have big buildings (and consequently) big overheads, so if all of a sudden—if they are making money from exports and the price drops—a big company would have trouble retooling. (But) a small (enterprise), which can't sell products now, will just shift to another (economic) activity. The poor adapt," said lawyer John Owens, a USAID consultant who acts as MABS chief of party.

"Food, garments, shoe repairs—these are the activities that would al-

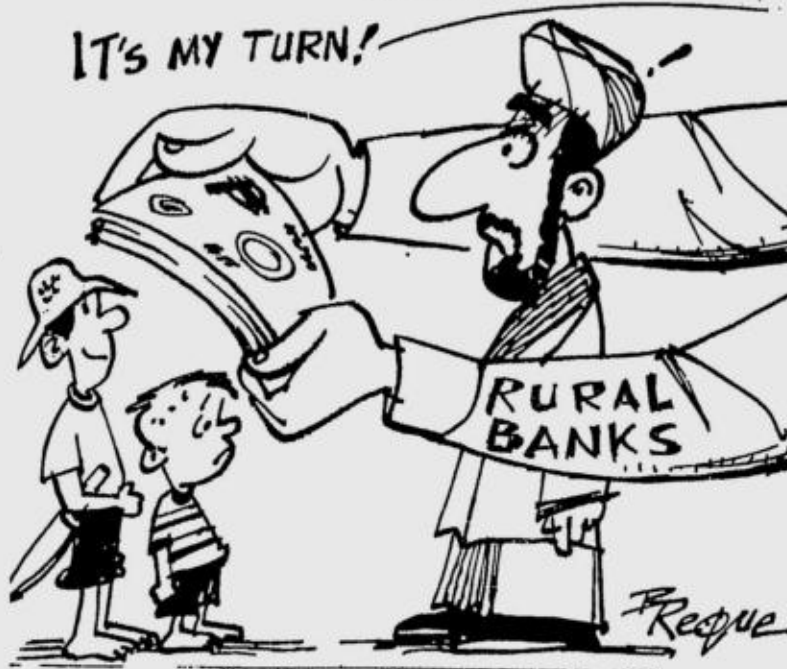


ILLUSTRATION: RAUL REQUE

ways go on, (will) always be there, (will) always (be) an active economic marketplace. (But) access to financial services, to capital, will help them grow," he said.

Lim said the poor can single-handedly provide the concept of micro-financing their seed capital.

"Actually we are encouraging the poor not only to borrow and repay their loans but also to deposit. What is happening is the difference in the interest rate—which they used to pay to usurers (and roving Indian money-lenders)—is now the money they are saving. So at the end of the term, they not only pay the loans but they also have money in the bank."

He said the "Bombay-inspired" MABS offers a monthly interest of 2.5 percent, but the small loans combined already represent generous windfalls for banks in terms of deposits.

When tested in Mindanao years ago, rural banks there noted an increase in micro-finance depositors from the regular 2,000 to 82,920 additional accounts, RBAP records showed.

Owens said the additional deposits amounted to P77.6 million.

"So the entire micro-lending portfolio (for Mindanao) has been substantially accelerated. This is just the increase in deposits, but the increase is about 75 percent in additional deposits... We feel that the outstanding balance (in remittable MABS loans) would be over P300 million, so (Mindanao rural banks earned) more than enough. They also have money for other loans," he said.

Windfall from deposits should expand the "rarely-optimized" agricul-

tural portfolios of about 1,800 rural banks, which operate in 85 percent of the municipalities, but which also still the smallest revenue bloc in the banking marketplace, Owens said.

Lim said the very "smallness" of the Filipino rural banking industry made the radical MABS concept work for RBAP.

BSP Deputy Gov. Roberto Reyes warned Lim in November "to be careful because times will be tougher next year."

But Lim said RBAP "can flow with the tide better than urban lenders."

"In terms of numbers, rural banks lend to more farmers than any other institutions... We don't have dollar-denominated loans so we don't have any problem like that."

We are tied to agricultural loans. In fact, if you look at the statistics, agriculture did very well this year and that is probably the reason we are doing better this year. The non-performing loan average of rural banks dropped from P20 to P16 billion, while the average non-performing loans of commercial banks shot down to P18 billion," he said.

Yet the new MABS portfolio requires an even more radical reinvention of the rural banking culture, Lim said.

Bankers are now being taught to deal with the poor entrepreneur, and are being trained to address a day-to-day transaction, which the "Bombay" money-lender had always practiced.

"In fact, (MABS-practicing rural bankers) are becoming very popular. The people bankers used to ignore as investors are now approached with open arms. We are becoming

heroes. I operate in a very rural area, (which requires small capital compared to traditional loan targets)," Lim said.

More importantly, said RBAP vice president Alexander Buenaventura, the poor who borrow money from MABS are being conditioned to use their loans wisely because of the strict loan redemption policy now being applied by rural banks.

"MABS can offer from P3,000 to P25,000 in non-collateral loans. Once the same creditors seek higher loans, after paying off their MABS loans, we introduce traditional loan services to them, and they adjust well to the standard loans because their businesses now make money," he said.

But the real industry change is altering internal banking politics, Lim said.

He said rural banks had been forced into conservatism by their "mistaken foray into the government-led micro-finance program called Masagana 99."

"Those (rural bankers) who participated in Masagana 99 are very wary of government participation. Masagana 99 was a success in the beginning. And then government wanted it to be big. Then people got the idea that Masagana 99 was about government money and decided not to pay. We lost our shirts there," he related.

Owens said banking experts saw the same radical shift happening all over the world.

"What happened all over the world (to) targeted direct credit programs by (world) governments for their poor? (We noted) high rates of arrears (in many) government programs like the Masagana 99 here in the Phil," pines. Nobody paid. Subsidized loans encouraged corruption," Owens said.

"That changed in the 1970s and 1980s. Bankers began to see people actually figuring out how to lend money, get it back, and run it as business activities, similar to what the 'Bombays' do, but using economies of scale and by reducing the interest rates. Filipino rural banks learned from the informal sector, how to do it and at a much more reasonable rate."

"What you're seeing (with the changes in Filipino rural banking) is true financial intervention. You don't need government to come in with a lot of money. Basically, you generate the deposits, turn it right around and help the same people, and basically have a place where people can build their assets. Instead of getting CDs, they can get children's education, buy a home, start saving to buy that piece of land. (The MABS system) basically builds on itself."

Tikoy sticks as favorite take home holiday treat

(From page B8)

"We never submit any list. Our friendly storeowner will just use the list last year and that's it," Rosendo said. He added that they would just sign the delivery receipts written in several sheets of yellow pad.

"Utang," Rosendo said. When the delivery times comes, the house will be turned into one big bodega of boxes of ingredients and sacks of glutinous rice. "One can hardly move," Rosendo said.

Christmastime

The elder Zabala said they need at least P1 million capital every Christ-

mas production.

He said the ingredients are all basically the same.

"Glutinous rice, same brand of butter in can, margarine, sugar, same brand of cheese, condensed milk and, or course, the same old basic cooking techniques. That's the secret of the trade," he said. According to Zabala, he maintains at least eight regular employees in the *tikoy* factory.

But when Christmas is just around the corner, he hires at least 30 additional employees to handle the different aspects of *tikoy* production.

"From as early as the second week of December, my eight big stainless steamers never stop till the 24th. Night and day, non-stop mixing, grinding, packaging in boxes of different sizes, and so forth, till the last customer picks up the last box available," Zabala recalled.

Sometimes, he said, they can see customers sleeping in a corner waiting for the next batch of *tikoy* to be hauled in.

Fuel

Zabala uses dried *bualaw* or dried palay cover for fuel bought from the rows of rice mills in the outskirts of the city.

He said it could maintain the maximum required heat in 8-10 hours' cooking of every batch, unlike the gas stove where the heat it provides is limited. "For the last three years, our prices have remained the same because if I make an (increase), (some) loyal customers may not be able to buy their yearly *tikoy*," Zabala claimed. Zabala's *tikoy* is priced according to size: one-eight, one-fourth, one-half and one box, and the roots of all the available sizes—various cuts and designs.

"But whatever the price is, it is worth your Christmas," Zabala said.

Exec tries to reach the top with greetings

CRISIS indeed breeds opportunities. This was the case for Harry U. Limtong, CEO of Main Pacific Features Inc., franchise holder of Blue Mountain Greeting Cards and Fine Arts International Greeting Cards.

While Fine Arts has long been around, Blue Mountain is new in the market. Limtong, however, has reasons to be happy about the greeting card nowadays as its sales are doing very well, despite the presence of formidable competitors in the market.

Blue Mountain is currently making a name for itself, enhancing its chances of being known eventually as the ultimate name in greeting cards.

Before Limtong acquired the rights to Blue Mountain Arts—greeting cards, bookmarks, gift wrappers, gift bags, books, posters and scrolls—he was in a dilemma.

One of the family companies has been marketing the world-renowned Gibson greeting cards since 1984. It has become one of the strongest players in the market when, in the last quarter of 1998 while business was going smoothly despite the Asian financial crisis, they were informed by Gibson USA that the company will be bought by Ameri-

can Greetings, distributor of Fiesta Cards, within a year.

The thought gave Limtong sleepless nights. He recounted how he felt with the situation: "We thought that if that would happen, American Greetings would close down the whole Gibson operations worldwide as it was the best way to get rid of a major competitor in the market."

Limtong's company had to scramble and look for another major line. After a few months of waiting coupled with relentless prayers for a new card line to replace Gibson—he had become a renewed Christian, a man of great faith—he received word that US-based Blue Mountain Arts was willing to work with his company.

Limtong could only be thankful to God for the opportunity, a better one at that, after the possible loss of Gibson almost caused a crisis in their business.

Even before the formal launching of Blue Mountain in the market, Limtong was already optimistic about the brand. A market test during the first quarter of 2000 yielded very impressive and promising results.

"It was beyond our wildest expectations," Limtong ecstatically described the results.

Less than half year in the market



HARRY Limtong of Blue Mountain cards and Fine Arts International Greeting Cards

and considering that it is not sold in the country's premier bookstores, Blue Mountain items are slowly inching its way to the top—judging from its performance.

Limtong offers an explanation for this success: "Blue Mountain has very long sentiments, expressed in the products, whether greeting cards, books, scrolls or posters. Also, people have a variety of options from among these

products. There is always something to suit the occasion or the prevailing mood or sentiment at a particular time. The need to express those feelings or sentiments is right there and then answered by a Blue Mountain card or book so it becomes a perfect buy for that particular person. Also, Filipinos are basically romantic, which is what Blue Mountain messages are basically... By the way, the most popular

lines are those for anniversaries."

Despite its positive performance in the market, Limtong, however, has even loftier goals for Blue Mountain.

"My goal is to get at least 25 percent of the market, something which, I believe, is achievable. My dream goal, though, is to capture 51 percent (of the market). Lastly, my vision is for Blue Mountain to be known as the greeting card," states Limtong.

While his eyes are on constant watch on how Blue Mountain Arts items are doing in the racks, Limtong is equally busy with other companies in the family's conglomerate. Traditionally, the Limtong family has always been engaged in printing, a business which was passed on to him by his father, Basic Polyprinters and Packaging Corp. is considered one of the top printers in the industry. A deviation is the Cuisine Connection Inc., operator of Benissimo Italian Restaurant.

Just as Limtong was trained by his father in business, he is also training his own son at Cuisine Connection, imparting to him the same lessons and challenges given by his own father to him when he was younger.

Among the lessons he has learned so well is how to have good relations with workers. Despite his affluent family background and remarkable academic

credentials—grade school valedictorian; high school first honors; BSC in economics, cum laude, all at the University of San Carlos; plus an MBA from the University of the Philippines—Limtong has mastered the ability to go down to layman's level and talk in their language, adding that it is very important to put trust in people. Above all, he says, it is also essential that you win their respect by showing them that you work equally hard and that you know the A to Z of the business.

His present business positions notwithstanding—he is either CEO or president of eight corporations—Limtong finds time to do ministry work. An active member of the Word for All Nations Church, he provides snacks during weekly Bible study sessions of about 300 children in Caban, Nueva Ecija, and brings rehabilitation Center in Tagaytay every third Saturday, also providing them Bible books and food.

To this man who believes that "opportunities knock but once," the opportunity that is Blue Mountain Arts, borne out of a crisis, is reaping him rewards and it may not be too long before it gets him to the top.

C.V. Clarete

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespino@inquirer.com.ph

Green Cross links with Red Cross to 'Help Save Lives'

THESE are very trying times. The world is at the crossroads of one of the most difficult and critical chapters in history. The events on the aftermath of the Sept. 11 disaster in the United States have created a picture of dire economic and political consequences worldwide, the gravity of which we cannot even as yet fathom.

While it is true that we see and feel the dangers that lurk around us, there are opportunities even in times of crisis. There is a positive way of looking at these worsening scenarios when we are alert and sensitive enough to recognize that indeed, such opportunities thrive in adversity and crisis.

One company that feels the need to do its share and do something positive is Green Cross Inc., the manufacturer of high quality personal care and household products. Established in 1952, the company turns 50 next year and sees it fit to cast one serious look and take the effort of

launching an advocacy campaign to "Help Save Lives" in support of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Since its creation as a voluntary humanitarian organization in 1947, the Philippine National Red Cross, through the years, has served as an auxiliary arm of government in providing relief, health and welfare to the most vulnerable people in need, particularly during disasters and emergencies. Today, it operates with 88 chapters and sub-chapters nationwide but does so solely on public contribution for funds.

This is where Green Cross' "Help Save Lives" advocacy project comes in. By initiating some funding and providing Green Cross Alcohol in the blood-letting activities of the Philippine National Red Cross, the company takes on the challenge of becoming a key component in revitalizing support for the PNRC. Green Cross initiated a media campaign to drum up support from benevo-

lent corporations and business establishments as well as from civic-minded and generous individuals who earnestly want to do their share by caring for others.

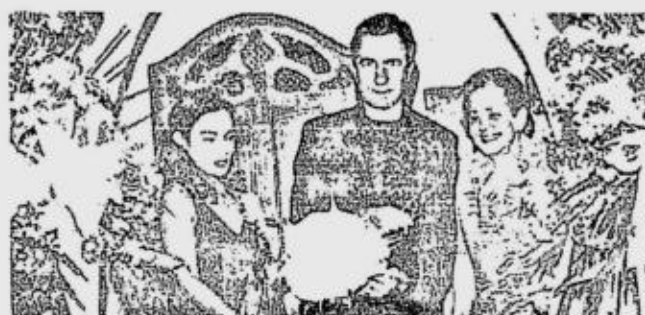
Disasters or no disasters, the PNRC is in constant need of blood donors and financial benefactors to effectively run its nationwide operations and reach out to the most far-flung areas in the country where its services are needed. The Red Cross has come to symbolize this exemplary nobleness of being there when it happens, wherever it may be without let-up.

In the long run, the link that Green Cross has established with the Philippine National Red Cross is the bridge that would connect us to a better way of addressing the needs of the needy. The "Help Save Lives" project keeps us aware of the realities that we have to contend with and the realization that before we can truly belong in this world, we have to give part of ourselves first.



SMART LAUNCHES VIRRA MALL WIRELESS CENTER

Smart Communications Inc. recently inaugurated its 786-sqm business center right at the heart of Metro Manila's cellphone center—Greenhills. The newly opened Smart Virra Mall Wireless Center is a virtual supermarket and 'tiangge', with more than 70 Smart-accredited dealers stalls offering a complete array of phones and IT-related products. Shown are Smart and TSI executives with San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito giving a ceremonial toast to the successful inauguration of the Smart Virra Mall Wireless Center: (from left) Alex Caeg, Smart head for customer care department; Mayor Ejercito; Napoleon Nazareno, Smart president and CEO; Anastacio Martinez, Smart head for personal communications and mobile services division; Greg Atienza, Telecom Specialist Inc. president and CEO; and Ramon Fernandez, Smart head for administration, materials, and management department.



GAUDI BLESSED, INAUGURATED

Gaudi 'Bebidas, Pintxos y Platos' held the formal blessing and inauguration of its Spanish restaurant recently. Shown in ribbon-cutting ceremonies are Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja, Ambassador of Spain as guest of honor with Trisha Dizon and Beatriz M. Cacho assisting him. Gaudi offers its clients a unique culinary experience from fascinating Spain, a country that considers dining one of life's greatest pleasures. Gaudi is at 114 Jupiter Street, Makati City, with tel. no. 897-2672.



METROBANK SHANGHAI INAUGURATED

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, recently inaugurated its Shanghai branch, the first Philippine bank in China. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor, shown above unveiling the Metrobank Shanghai branch commemorative marker. She is assisted by bank chair George S.K. Ty. Metrobank Shanghai is located at 1203 Marine Tower at no. 1 Pudong Avenue and is headed by first vice president Duncan Wang. Metrobank currently has a network of 15 international branches.

Pfizer executive named in Fortune's 50 most powerful

FORTUNE Magazine recently named Karen Katen, executive vice president, Pfizer Inc., and president of Pfizer Pharmaceutical Group (PPG) as one of its 50 "most powerful women in business," moving up to 7th from 14th last year. Katen is now the highest-ranking pharmaceutical executive.

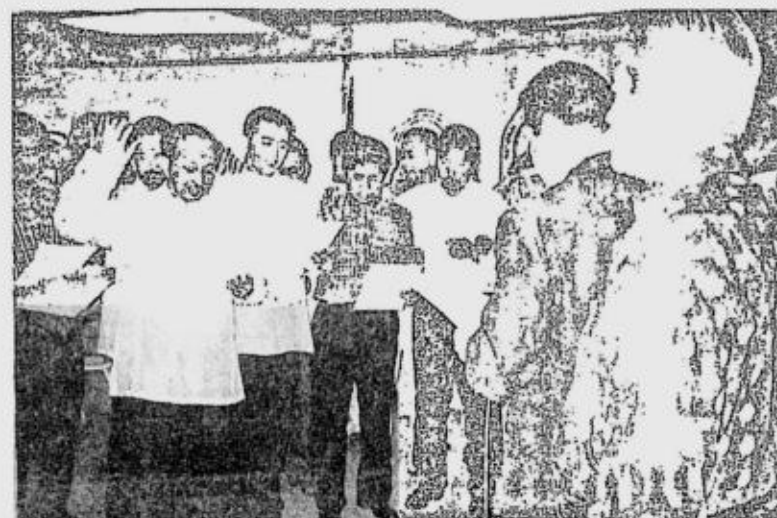
"Promoted in March as head of PPG, Katen now brings in the bulk of business for the \$30-billion drug behemoth," Fortune says, adding that her unit produces five of the world's top-selling pharmaceuticals.

Fortune said the list is reflective of the end of the "dot com" mania that produced so many overnight, and ultimately illusory, successes. Instead, the article states, "We see the emergence of women who came to

power slowly. They stayed with a company, steadily built influence, and rose to power through determination and insider knowledge."

"This improvement in personal ranking is not about me, but about Pfizer and Pfizer's approach to business: customer focus, innovation and a relentless pursuit of excellence are the basis of sustained performance," said Katen, who joined Pfizer in 1974. She has made the Fortune list in each of the four years it has been published, ranking No. 16 in 1998 and 1999.

Pfizer is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and manufactures innovative medicines for humans and animals. Pfizer invested \$5 billion for research and development this year.



LAKAS-NUCD BATAAN CHAPTER OATH-TAKING

Lawyer Jose Ma. Abad Rufino, secretary for political affairs (second from right) recently swore in Mayor Nelson C. David of Limay (third from left) as provincial chair of the Lakas-NUCD Bataan chapter, together with other political leaders including Mayor Abet Garcia of Balanga City, Mayor Teodorico Albelda of Samal, and Mayor Norberto Ricardo of Bagac. Also sworn in was Vicente dela Fuente as executive director of the Bataan chapter. The induction ceremonies took place at the party headquarters in Makati City.



DEMOCRACY GRANT FOR PPI-US EMBASSY PROJECT

Michael Anderson, public affairs counselor of the United States Embassy, and Jose L. Pavia, executive director of the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) shake hands after the recent turnover of the grant agreement for \$13,300 (P665,000) under the Democracy Institution Building Small Grant Program of the US government. The PPI will use the grant to carry out a three-legged seminar-workshop on media and governance for its member-newspapers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao in the first quarter of 2002. Flanking them are assistant public affairs officer Heide Bronke (left) and information officer Karen Kelley.

GK launched at Glorietta 4

GK bags were formally launched at Glorietta Activity Center last Nov. 23.

The ribbon-cutting was joined by distinguished personalities such as Senator Manuel B. Villar, Gerry S. Padilla (Foundation for the Fullness and Integrity of Creation chair) Bernie Cuevas, (vice president, FFIC), Ruby Borja (marketing, FFIC), Triccie Sison (board chair, Citizen's National Network Against Poverty and Corruption) and several Couples for Christ Council Members. Prominent news editors, political and showbiz personalities also witnessed the blessing and

ribbon cutting. The blessing of the cart was done by Fr. Ben Beltran (Sambayanan ng Muling Pagkabuhay parish priest) of Smokey Mountain.

This was followed by a multimedia presentation of the CFC Ancop-Gawad Kalinga Livelihood programs. A showcase of all GK products was also exhibited at the Activity Center, together with the different GK bags.

The GK stall/cart is located at Glorietta ground floor (beside the Glorietta Activity Center).

Treat yourself and do a good deed. Buy GK and you'll feel really good, inside and out.

Bombo Radyo launches Christmas gift-giving spree

Despite the economic crisis gripping the country, Bombo Radyo Philippines continues its tradition of sharing this Christmas season. Business magnate Rogelio M. Florete, Bombo Radyo Philippines' president and chief executive officer and Queen City Development Bank chair, donated Dec. 15 three Kawasaki motorcycles to the Iloilo police through City Mayor Jerry Treñas. The donation was on behalf of Bombo Radyo Philippines and the Queen Bank Foundation.

Florete describes the gesture as "our simple way of showing our support to the city government and an expression of our companies' concern for the welfare of the city." He adds, "we want to show that Bombo Radyo Philippines and Queen Bank are also responsible corporate citizens of this community."

Meanwhile, ongoing until the feast of the Three Kings on Jan. 6, 2002, Bombo Radyo and Star FM will be giving away special gifts worth P1 million. The network's tradition of generosity has also been extended to the less fortunate. As in the past years, Bombo Radyo Philippines will be giving away Christmas offerings to indigents of Asilo de Molo, the inmates of the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology District Jail at Ungka, Iloilo City.



UNILAB MARKETING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

United Laboratories Inc. is the marketing company of 2001 in the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Awards. Unilab President-COO Carlos C. Ejercito (second from right) receives the award from PMA president Jose Jesus F. Rocas. With them are Bienvenido Policarpio, PMA awards overall chair, and Von Hilzon (right), PMA director-in-charge. The Agora Awards is the beacon of Filipino marketing excellence that spotlights world-class 'versatility, innovativeness and ingenuity.'



PMPH DONATES TO RPDEV

Philip Morris Philippines Inc. (PMPH) managing director George Farah hands over former President Fidel V. Ramos the company's P1-million donation to the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation (RPDev) during a courtesy call at RPDev's office in Makati City recently. Part of the donation funded the successful third FVR-RPDev lecture series held in Makati last month, while the rest will support RPDev's various projects aimed at poverty reduction, education and environmental protection. Ramos, chair of RPDev, welcomed PMPH's contribution as it would 'help RPDev to pursue its programs and activities in line with our shared vision of a brighter future for the Asia-Pacific region.'

Savana Christmas Bazaar

COMPLETE your shopping needs for Christmas and the New Year at the Savana Commercial Center's regular Christmas Bazaar which is open up to Jan. 5. A wide array of quality ladies apparel (blouses and T-shirts) and many other goods are sold at the bazaar at very low prices.



JOB STATION MEETS WITH US PARTNER

Job Station Company recently met with its partner, US-based Diversified Health Enterprises International, to discuss their recruitment program for jobs in the United States. Shown are (seated, from left) Bambi Ramos, Nori Zalocita, Job Station president and GM Agnes Gimenez, Diversified president Dr. Leonor Feliciano, and Job Station chair Flor Dayrit, (standing from left) Dinah de Castro, Vernetta Paco, Jorge Ramos, Vic Mendoza, Boy Gimenez, Mely Paggabao, Dr. Tito Feliciano, and Jaz Buñag.

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5. House/Unit A-7, 4BR, 6TB w/attic & gar Baler Luxury House, Baler St., SFDM LA-108 FA-179 4,117,000

6. House/Unit A-8, 4BR, 4TB w/attic & gar Baler Luxury House, Baler St., SFDM LA-129 FA-258 5,934,000

7. Res. 1 house - 2 Sty, w attic & garage / 27 Nickel Street, Filinvest Homes II LA-70 FA-175 2,445,000

8. Res House / Lot 1 Marlinos St., Maho-gany Villas, Dona Carmen, C'wealth LA-74.29 1,600,000

9. Res House / Lot 2 Marlinos St., Maho-gany Villas, Dona Carmen, C'wealth LA-74.29 1,500,000

LAGUNA

10. Res. H & L - 1sty, 3BR, 2TB w/ garage / 312 Knapigan St., Pamuna Lotran Homes, Bukal, Calamba LA-251 FA-194 1,880,000

11. Res. H & L - 1sty, 2BR, 3TB w/ pool & garage / 800 Narra St., Miramonte, Pansol, Calamba LA-918 FA-220.74 5,185,000

12. Res. Apartment - 6 door unfinished - 2 storey, L6 & L8, B7, Road Lot 9, Via Firenze St., Romanville Subd, Tagapo, Sta Rosa LA-220 FA-345.42 1,830,000

TAGUIG

13. Res. H&L-2sty w/ rooftop, 5BR, 2TB w/ prgo / 6 Elizco Rd. Bo. Tipaz, Taguig LA-181 FA-321 2,980,000

PASIG

14. Res. Bldg - 2sty / Lot 16 Bld 2, Yekal St., F. Agapito Subd., Santolan, Pasig LA-245 3,589,000

CAINTA

15. House - 2 BR, 2 TB, w/ attic & garage / L6-a B3, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision LA-95 880,000

16. House - 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit C, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision, Cainta LA-36 FA-60 600,000

ANTIPOLO

17. Vacant Lot - Provincial Road corner Magway St., Our Lady Fatima VI LA-230 414,000

18. Res. 1 house-2sty, 2BR, 1TB / L4 B4, Volles V St. Mariz Thomas, San Jose LA-51 FA-47.7 685,000

19. Res. H&L - 1storey & 2 sty bldg 1806 Valley Golf Dr, Valley Golf Subd LA-2,080 TFA-518.5 8,280,000

CAVITE

20. Res. Lot-(Fairway) L17-B10, Orchard Res. Estate Golf Country Club, Dasmariñas LA-1,034 9,930,000

21. Res'l Lot-(Fairway) Lot14, Bld 4 Orchard Res'l Estate & Golf & Country Club, Dasmariñas LA-731 2,780,000

22. Res. Apart. - 2 sty 3-door / L15-b B5, Rosalia Subd., Hebay, Bacoor LA-152 FA-155 1,300,000

23. Res. Rowhouse-1sty, 1TB & L20-B2, J. Laurel St, Villa Eliza Subd, Anabao LA-38 FA-37 265,000

BULACAN, MARILAO

24. Res. Apart - 30 door, 2sty / M. Santiago Road, Llas, Bo. Ibayo, Marilao LA-334 6,100,000

NUOVA ECIA, CABAATUAN

25. Agri. Lot / 30-A Daang Sarile, Valdefuente, Cabaatuan City LA-12,428 2,765,000

26. Agricultural Lot / Lot 3-B Daang Sarile, Valdefuente, Cabaatuan City LA-38,133.2 2,725,000

COMMERCIAL

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27. Residential / Commercial Lot - corner Malugay and Tailsay Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City* (with notice of levy) TLA-4,975 475,000,000

28. Vacant Lot - 3904 Quingua St., Pinagkaisahan, Makati City LA-612 17,600,000

QUEZON CITY

29. Comm'l Lot w/ warehouses - 185 Roosevelt Ave., San Francisco Del Monte, QC TLA-5,641 205,000,000

30. Comm'l Bldg - 1 sty w/ mezzanine, w/ showroom #27, Timog Ave., Dillman District, TLA-1,380 71,000,000

31. Comm'l Bldg - 3 sty w/ rooftop / 500 Quirino Hwy, Bo. Bagbag, Novaliches, LA-180 FA-488 7,985,000

32. Industrial/Residential Lots - 6 lots / Brgy. Nagkaisang Nasyon, Novaliches, QC TLA-38,820 98,670,000

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33. Residential / Commercial Building - 4 storey Dormitory / 352 M.F. Hocson St., Sampaloc, Manila *(on short-term lease) LA-489.3 TFA-1,620.50 21,300,000

34. Comm'l Bldg - 7 storey w/ mezz. / 951 Arlegui St., Quaijo, Manila LA-402.7 FA-2,634 17,630,000

35. Office Unit / Unit 1212 & 1214 / Espana Towers Condominium, Sampaloc, Manila FA-44 1,658,000

VALENZUELA, MAYSAN

36. Industrial/Residential Lots - 6 lots / Brgy. Maysan, Valenzuela City TLA-15,506 10,340,000

37. Industrial/Residential Lot - Brgy. Maysan, Valenzuela City LA-3,400 2,455,000

38. Industrial/Residential Lot - Brgy. Maysan, Valenzuela City LA-11,457 7,450,000

39. Industrial/Residential Lot - Brgy. Lingunan, Valenzuela City LA-7,841 5,230,000

40. Industrial/Residential Lot - Plastic Housing, Brgy. Canumay, Valenzuela City LA-26,308 40,850,000

41. Industrial/Residential Lot - 3 lots / 47 Maysan Rd., Bgy. Maysan, Valenzuela City LA-7,871 52,905,000

42. Ind'l Lots-2lots/6T, Santiago St, Plastic City Compound, West Canumay, Valenzuela-LA-10,089 51,280,000

43. Ind'l Lot - Plastic City Compound, Bgy. Maysan, Valenzuela City LA-400 600,000

NUOVA ECIA, CABAATUAN

44. Comm'l Bldg - 3sty / Lots 1B & 2B, Maharika Road, Poblacion, Cabaatuan LA-420 FA-470.4 6,000,000

45. Industrial / Residential Lot - w/ warehouse, office & residential building Lot 2, Road Dike, Daang Sarile, valdefuente, Cabaatuan City LA-20,000 24,405,000

BULACAN, MEYCAUAYAN

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Graduate of Business Administration with Masters Degree or a CPA. Highly motivated and can handle people of all levels. At least 5 years work experience in a top management position. Preferably female, not more than 45 years old.

Regional Managers/Product Managers

Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have at least 5 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male, not more than 45 years old.

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Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have 2-3 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male/Female, not more than 40 years old.

Business Coordination Manager

Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have 2-3 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male/Female, not more than 40 years old.

Planning and Research Development Officers

Graduate of Management/Economics, or any related course. With adept knowledge in research and data analysis. Must have at least 5 years work experience in planning and research. Willing to work long hours with minimum supervision. Male/Female, 25-35 years old.

System Integration Assistant

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication or Business Administration. With at least 4 years work experience and must be adept in office procedures and administration. Proficient in Windows/Microsoft applications and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Female, 25-30 years old.

Marketing Assistant

Graduate of Management, Marketing, Advertising or Mass Communication. Proficient in oral and written communication. With relevant work experience. Male/Female, 21-35 years old.

Corporate Presentors

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication. Excellent in oral and written communication with relevant work experience. Good in Public Speaking. Computer literate, flexible, and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned to do field works. Male/Female 21-35 years old.

Training Officers/Trainers

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication. Education or any Business course. Excellent in oral and written communication. Good in Public Speaking. Highly computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila, provincial and/or depressed areas. Male/Female, 21-30 years old.

Business Coordinators

Graduate of any business course with 3-5 years sales and marketing experience. Proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to do field works. Male/Female, 21-35 years old.

Customer Relations Staff

Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course. Preferably with relevant work experience in customer service and handling customer concerns. Must be computer literate and proficient in oral and written communication. Male/Female, 21-28 years old.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Programmers/Systems Analysts

Graduate of Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Electronics and Communications Engineering. With at least 3 years relevant work experience in the following applications - SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA, ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, or Windows Operating System (1998 NT/2000 Professional); knowledge in Database Administration and Computer Programming a major plus. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

Web Developers

Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering. With at least 2-3 years extensive experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, HS, BV Script; Access, SQL Server, Visual Interdev/ UltraDev. Preferably with strong knowledge in HTML and Java Script. Hard coding as well as Cross-Browser Development. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Accounting Assistants/Accounts Receivable Clerk/Credit and Collection Clerk

Graduate of Accountancy with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Highly-computer literate. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Willing to render overtime.

Administrative Assistant

Graduate of any four-year course with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Must be smart, assertive and organized. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Highly-computer literate with good typing skills.

AD & PROMO/PUBLICATION

Editorial Staff/Copywriter

Graduates of Journalism/Mass Communication/Communication Arts or any related course. Must be creative, with excellent writing skills, detail-oriented, resourceful and computer literate. Preferably with background in business administration and with relative work experience in publication. Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.

Account Manager

Graduate of Mass Communication, Communication Arts, Advertising or any related course. Preferably with relevant experience in advertising or its equivalent. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and pleasing personality. Female, single, 22-28 years old.

Graphic Artist

Graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising/Communications Arts or any related course. Proficient in desktop publishing and other graphic software (Photoshop, Illustrator, Pagemaker, Corel, Freehand, etc.). With impressive portfolio and at least 1-2 years experience preferably in an ad agency or its equivalent. Must be creative and deadline-oriented. Male/Female, 21-30 years old.

Technical Assistant

Graduate of Mass Communication or any business course. Excellent in oral and written communication, computer literate, preferably with relevant work experience. Must be smart and flexible with pleasing personality. Female, 21-23 years old, single.

Production Staff

Male, 20-28 years old, at least college level. Must be hardworking and flexible. willing to work long hours.

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OBITUARIES

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ALY TE GO

**DELCO WIRE & CABLE CORPORATION
 UYANGUREN HARDWARE CO., INC.
 MITSUKAWA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, INC.**

*Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
 on December 28, 2001 at the age of 39.*

His bereaved parents **DELFIN GO KIAN LAM & SALLY TE GO**; brothers and sisters-in-law **DELFIN JR., TIMOTHY, TYRONE & AIREEN, NATHANIEL & VIRGINIA**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. He will be transferred to Davao City on January 3, 2002 at 6:00 AM.

Interment will be on January 8, 2002 at the Buhangin Memorial Park, Davao City.

Dr. Januario T. Agay

Born July 9, 1941
 Died December 23, 2001
 in New Jersey, USA

His grieving wife Cecilia Bordado; children, Ma. Consuelo, Mary Lynn, Jan Ronald and Jan Vincent; parents, Laudelino (†) and Consuelo (†); sisters and brothers, Concepcion (†), Lydia, Ester, Milagros, Ramon (†), Lourdes, Rogelio (†), Iraida and Agerico, parents-in-law, Benjamin (†) and Teresita Bordado, and other relatives request the pious reader to pray that he may live in eternal peace and joy.

His remains lie in state in his Philippine home at #4 Joaquin Street, T.S. Cruz Subdivision, Baesa, Quezon City. Interment at the Holy Cross Memorial Park will be on January 2, 2002 after a 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish Church, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

QUINTIN M. GAMBOL, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 29, 2001 at the age of 94.

His children **AMAR, DICK, SENEN, EDDIE, PEMPE, MYRNA, FREDDIE, BOYING & DELIA**; daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Wednesday, January 2, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Baesa, Novaliches after the 1:00 PM Mass.

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting
 tribute to your departed loved one.*

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	WELLINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES 1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438, 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ① Copy of Death Certificate ② Any identification document (I.D.)

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PT&T now offers web-based services

THE PUBLIC will soon be able to send same-day-door-delivered e-mails throughout the Philippines and real-time text messages to text-friendly cellphones anywhere in the world.

PT&T, the telecommunications company that has provided the public with a full range of voice and data services for 39 years, is making this e-shift as it molds itself to fit well within the Internet era. After the successful launching of its 15 "Click and Call" e-stations nationwide, it is now offering e-Sulat and Freehand to add to their list of web-based services, and is making these available worldwide.

E-Sulat is PT&T's Internet-based messaging service that assures one of same-day-door-delivery for messages sent before 8 a.m. (Philippine time). "This answers the need of most rural folk and even a few within the city, who do not have computers, to receive their e-mail," says Jose Luis Santiago, chief executive officer of PT&T. As an added convenience of e-Sulat, the sender can choose to pay for a "reply" from the recipient.

The second offering, Freehand, is a short message service (SMS) that allows one text from a computer to be sent to any text-capable cellphone worldwide in real time.

These services can be availed of by logging and registering at www.e-sulat.com.ph. PT&T has also included the pre-paid factor as an added convenience for its public through the "Kabayan e-Kard," which comes in various denominations for both the international and local markets. This carry-all card will be available in all PT&T outlets and selected dealers, in countries that have large Filipino communities.

Santiago said the e-Sulat website is expected to gain immediate acceptance among Filipinos abroad, now estimated to number some 7.5 million.



RCBC ROCKWELL BUSINESS CENTER OPENS

The RCBC Rockwell Business Center was recently inaugurated in simple ceremonies led by RCBC officers and sponsors. Shown during the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon were (foreground, from left) Cesar E. A. Virata, corporate vice chair of RCBC; Antonio Campos, president of Colgate-Palmolive; Ma. Teresa Lopez, president of Via Mare; Oscar Lopez, president of Lopez Group of Companies; Rizalino Navarro, RCBC chair. With them are (background, from left) Oscar Hlido, president of Phinma; Ditas Lerma, vice president of Café Via Mare; Andre Schumacher, senior vice president of Nestle Philippines; Valentin Araneta (partly hidden), president of RCBC; Glenda Barreto, COO of Café Via Mare, and Alfonso Yuchengco III, CEO and executive vice chair of RCBC. The RCBC Rockwell Business Center is located at the ground floor of Phinma Building at Rockwell Center in Makati City.



PHILIPPINE FUJI XEROX TIES UP WITH ACM PHILIPPINES

In line with its goal of intensifying its sales and marketing performance, Philippine Fuji Xerox Corp. (PFC) recently inked a tie-up with the country's first and most extensive one-stop shop for imaging supplies, ACM Supply Philippines Inc. Through this master dealer partnership, Fuji Xerox will be able to take advantage of ACM's extensive nationwide coverage of branches, dealers and resellers, as well as its expertise in strategic marketing/dealership planning. Shown (seated, from left) are Toshikatsu Kanaoka, PFXC EVP for marketing and business operations; Romy Serrano, PFXC president; Norman B. Ocana, Jr., ACM president, and Pete Guazon, ACM VP for sales operations. Standing (from left) are Thom Tolentino, PFXC technical support engineer; Monica Paulino, ACM marketing officer; Nilda Tribaco, PFXC dealer coordinator and Nolan Landayan, PFXC assistant manager.

Bicol priests ordained

ON DEC. 8, six priests from the Diocese of Legazpi in Albay were ordained. They were Fr. Paolo "Pao" Baria Barandon of Bonga Bacacay, Albay; Fr. Rafael "Raffy" Bonganay Benosa, Jr. of Panal, Tabaco City; Fr. Mariano "Brye" Tabo Briones, III of Legazpi City; Fr. Juan "John" Bongon Bubon of Panal, Tabaco City; Fr. Fredolin "Bong" Britanico Cid of San Antonio, Tabaco City, and Fr. John "John" Binamira Mendoza of Camalig, Albay.

On Dec. 14, two priests from the prelature of Libmanan, Camarines Sur were ordained. They were Fr. Juan Jerome Coquia Daluro of Minalabac, Camarines Sur and Fr. Lucien "Doods" Lizardo Banaag of Minalabac, Camarines Sur.

PhilBX joins PMMAP event

PHILIPPINE Internet Business Exchange (PhilBX), the country's first operational full-service e-commerce portal, participated as corporate sponsor and guest speaker at the recently concluded Supplylink 2001: Beyond the Supply Chain organized by the Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP) held at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Oliver E. Sicut, general manager of PhilBX, delivered a talk dubbed "Making E-Commerce a Reality: B2B e-Commerce for SMEs". Sicut, a seasoned IT consultant, gave interesting insights about e-Commerce and how it can empower businesses. Sicut shared to PMMAP members, composed of business executives and other professionals from various industries, the power of conducting online and the numerous benefits and increased savings that their companies could experience.

In support to the government's IT initiatives, PhilBX is actively promoting B2B e-Commerce awareness to the public, especially to small-and-medium enterprises through conferences and seminars and free orientation.

PhilBX is the only application service provider that provides end-to-end and complete e-procurement services. A B2B e-commerce portal connecting small, medium and large enterprises, PhilBX is a one-stop trade exchange available in the market today. PhilBX is a partnership between Systems Standards Inc. (SSI), the largest reseller of IBM products in the Philippines and e-BX, a premier IBM business partner based in Penang, Malaysia.



PHILIPS CHAIR, PRESIDENT AND CEO IN MANILA

Philips Philippines recently welcomed Gerard Kleisterlee, chair, president and chief executive officer of Royal Philips Electronics, with a grand celebration held at the Shangri-La Manila Hotel. During his visit, Kleisterlee noted that the Philippines offers opportunities that Philips can build on. The event was attended by key government officials and top executives of Philips Philippines. Shown is Kleisterlee (fourth from left) raising a toast with Philips regional chief executive for South Asia Johan van Splunter (second from left), Philips Philippines president and CEO Pratt Hsu (leftmost) and other top executives of Philips Philippines during the welcome dinner.



AMA, MICROSOFT INK AGREEMENT

AMA Education System (Amaes) president Amable C. Aguiluz IX (first row, second from left) and Microsoft Philippines managing director Richard Francis (first row, second from right) recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the establishment of a People and Skills Development Center, a Bahrain-based 'e-learning hub', to develop the skills of overseas Filipino workers in information and communication technology (ICT). Shown are Manuel Abad, Amaes senior executive vice president, Sam Jacobo, Microsoft Philippines business development director (first row, from left). Also standing as witnesses are (second row, from left) Richie Lozada, Microsoft Philippines e-commerce director; Bernard Salay, John Medina, Karim Bangcola and Juanito Ramos Jr., top executives from Amaes.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

In view of the initial implementation of the LTO Information Technology Project, the Land Transportation Office is now updating vehicle registration records and files. In this regard, all motor vehicle owners registering in NCR District Offices shall be required to present the original copies of their CR (Certificate of Registration) or CRE (Certificate of Registration Encumbered) on their scheduled registration in the year 2002.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. ABENINA**
Brig. Gen. AFP (Ret.)
Assistant Secretary

(PDI - Dec 30, 2001)

OBITUARIES

RALPH NELSON E. BATACAN

May 30, 1941 - December 28, 2001

His bereaved wife **BABY**; mother **EVANGELINE**; children **JOY & ALVI, BOB & AU, RICKY** (†), **ROLAND & GABY**; grandchildren **JOVI, JON, JULIAN & JUSTIN, EVA MARIE & JAMES**; brothers **SONNY & JUG**; sister **RUBY**; sisters-in-law **LULU & NENE**; brother-in-law **PETER**; nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, at Rond, Parañaque City.

Interment will announced later.

ROMEO E. JOCSON

former artist/retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Passed away on December 25, 2001 at the age of 63.

His remains lie at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Ave., QC. Cremation will take place on Sunday, December 30, 2001 at 4:00 p.m., Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington.

"But if we had died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with HIM. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead; will never die again; Death no longer has dominion over HIM."

- Romans 6:8-10

IN LOVING MEMORY
2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

ENS FEDERICO DOMINGO BATOON, PN (RET.)

Who passed away on December 30, 1999

Holy Masses will be offered at the Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF Homes Parañaque City, Mother of Perpetual Help, Bacalaran, Parañaque, Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Fontana Catholic Church, California, U.S.A., St. Patrick Cathedral, New York City, U.S.A.

His loving wife **Germelina**; children **Gemma, Eric and Jojo** invite relatives and friends whose lives he had touched to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

"I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

FELIPE AGUAS BONDOC, M.D.

of Mt. Sinal Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on December 29, 2001

His loving brother **MER**; sister-in-law **LENI** and his nephews **BONBON, BIBOY, JAN-JAN** and **ALEX**.

His loving uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request all pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Solace 2 Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Mass at St. Catherine Parish Church, Arayat, Pampanga will be on Wednesday, January 2, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. and interment will follow thereafter at Arayat Catholic Cemetery.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Cor. 4:14

Sunday **BIZ**

Tikoy sticks as favorite take home holiday treat

BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Celebrating Christmas in the Philippines is not complete without food. Who would ever think of a Pinoy Christmas without *puto bumbong*, *suman*, *bibingka* and... yes, *tikoy*?

It's unthinkable because all of them, especially *tikoy*, are synonymous with traditional holiday table delicacies.

Whether one is a coconut peasant in Quezon longing for the return of the multibillion-peso coconut levy or an overseas contract worker, he will certainly begin to think of *tikoy*: that gummy steamed brownish mixture of glutinous rice, sugar, butter, margarine and some secret ingredients. And whether one has bought *tikoy* in the placid and cool town of Lucban, Quezon, or from an obscure delicacy store in the Southern Tagalog Region—Christmas season or not—chances are the stuff is a product of the famous Zabala's Tikoy in this city. It is owned by Doroteo Zabala, the *tikoy* magnate in the region.

Lucban roots

Zabala, or "Doring" to his friends, revealed the long history of his *tikoy* trade, which has been characterized, just like in any business, by ups and downs, friendship and debts, and a courageous perseverance to overcome all odds. The trade was started in the town of Lucban by his maternal grandfather, the late Camilo Campita way back in the 1920s.

"If anyone wanted to have *tikoy* for Christmas, all he had to do was go to my grandfather and order one," he says. He would cook the *tikoy* and deliver it to the (buyer)," recalled Zabala, now in his 70s. The Lucbanin coined a term for this *tikoy* transaction, said Zabala. The old folks called it *pasadya* (made to order). But he said that the orders only pour in during the Christmas season.

"At that time and years later, *tikoy* was not sold commercially. You could not find even a single slice of it, if it was not Christmas," he said. The Campitas in Lucban are also known as a maker of other sweet delicacies such as *kalamay-hati*, another sticky substance made from *panutsa* (solid brown sugar) stuffed inside a young bamboo tube and covered with *asin* leaf and a piece of colorful cellophane paper for added attraction.

Not interested

Zabala, however, admitted that even if he has the genes to cook and produce the kind of *tikoy* that his grandfather was famous for, he had not thought of going into the trade. "The hardship of earning a living for my growing family in Lucban where I married Matilde and sired six children took a toll on my health," he said. He was already content with his work as a laborer then, having frequent sorties with fellow workers over some rounds of *lambanog*.

But everything suddenly changed. "My eldest son was entering high school but I had no savings for his tuition. I decided to stop smoking as it cost me 50 centavos a day, which meant P15 a month when my son would need only P7.50 a month," he said.

That was the time he started looking for other ways to support his family. In 1964, he started producing *tikoy* commercially.

"It was not Christmas yet. My (argument) then was if I wanted to sell *tikoy* even if it was not Christmas, I had to make (it) available to the public throughout the year," Zabala said.

Initial capital

He could no longer recall the exact amount that he used as capital for his initial venture.

"I think it was not more than P50. From what I can remember, it was translated into one can, which contains three *salops* (chupas) of glutinous rice and the needed ingredients. I cooked two cans during that first try," he said. Zabala said he did it without any order because it was not Christmas season.

"Besides, *tikoy* as a commercial product is not an unknown concept. I was motivated by pure gut-feel that things would turn out right," he added. He sold all of his first production.

"I sliced the *tikoy* and sold it for P1 apiece, which weighed about a kilo each. My first commercial arena were the town's public market and the bus terminal," Zabala recalled.

He said he earned P50 from that first venture. "I was so happy because I was able to double my money," he said.

Second try

On his second try a week later, he cooked the same amount of ingredients. But this time, it flopped.

This did not discourage him, however.

"I told my wife that if I want to make *tikoy* a viable business product throughout the year, it should always be present in the counter," he said. From his base in Lucban, he started to commission some stores and a restaurant near the bus terminal in Lucena City as his promotional outlets for his *tikoy*.

"Sometimes, for every five pieces, three will be returned unsold," he said. But on his first Christmas as *magti-tikoy*, he received lots of orders.

As years passed by, he saw the slow but sure increase of his sales as reflected in his records.

New market

Motivated by the thought that he was on the right track, he decided to transfer his family to Lucena City.

"It was a gamble since we did not have anything to show yet. But I had to support my husband," Ailing Matilde, Zabala's wife, told the Inquirer. In 1972, the Zabalas rented a small space at the back of a Chinese school in the city, near the provincial capitol and the regional trial court, which doubled as their home and *tikoy* factory.

"It was just enough to accommodate a single burner for the *tikoy* steamer. And our capital was really wanting of additional strings," Ailing Matilde disclosed. But the past good deeds that they did to a Chinese friend in Lucban helped them out of their predicament. Zabala said their Chinese friend, a grocery owner in Lucban, introduced him to several big grocery storeowners in Lucena City.

"He gave us the needed support in terms of connections to credit lines," he said.

Honesty pays

The *tikoy* businessman said his friend just wanted to help them.

"It seemed that he was touched when his store was razed to the ground, including the list of all his *putang*. But since I had my own list at home up to the last centavo that I owed him, I paid him back completely," Zabala said.

He said the other borrowers did not pay Peng. To tap the market provided by government offices, Zabala befriended most of the provincial offices' bosses.

"That led to my having a captured market every day of the year, Christmas season or not," he recalled. Zabala said he also befriended most of the lawyers and the judges.

"They even drank at my residence after hear-

ings and before their regular bar chapter meetings," he said.

Friends' help

Zabala's first set of friends in the city—mostly lawyers, fellow *cursillistas* and fellow members in other Church-based groups, of which he is an active participant—served as his promoters.

"Until now, my friends and their other friends regularly place their orders every Christmas season. They tell me that something seems to be missing if they have no *tikoy* to offer to their visitors during the holidays," he said. Zabala said he owes what he is today to the ubiquitous *tikoy* one can see in almost every part of the modest yet spacious family home in Marktown Subdivision, Barangay Ibabang Dupay, this city. The area also serves as the *tikoy* factory. He is glad that his *tikoy* has even reached Hong Kong, Canada, United States and Germany. "It is easy for one to bring *tikoy* in any part of the world. It's handy and carefully wrapped in a sturdy carton box," he said, pointing to the stack of boxes in a corner that still bears the printed "NACIDA-Registered" trademark.

Tikoy's children

He said he also brings some *tikoy* boxes to his grandchildren in Canada.

Zabala has four children in Canada, all connected with a United Nations agency. Most of them are commerce graduates. "I can say that all of them were *'mga anak ng tikoy'* (children of *tikoy*)," he said as he laughed over the term. Rosendo "Boy" Zabala, the eldest son, recalled how they had all been stigmatized by the jeers that



their name connotes.

"In school, even in college, my classmates called me *tikoy* and not by my true name," he said. But, he said, it no longer matters now as they proved that theirs is a good business.

"That's why even when my own daughters complained of being teased in school, I just told them that it was *tikoy* that shaped our destiny. That there is nothing to be ashamed of," he added.

Good credit

And good business indeed is *tikoy* trade, attested Rosendo, because all throughout the year since they made this city as their *tikoy* production base, "we never bothered placing orders for all the ingredients for our yearly Christmas production." He said their friendly grocery storeowner would just phone them when December comes, asking when they will deliver the ingredients to the *tikoy* factory.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

TALK TO US

What should the new year bring?

THE OLD year, for better or worse, will very soon be gone for good. Beginning with fresh promise is 2002. Here's our chance to start again, to do it right, to have another shot at success, or glory, or even just a decent life. It's time to shed last year's baggage and celebrate what can be in the 365 untouched days to come. Let's hear what some people expect to see happen this year.



Ryan Cayabyab, composer, musical director and music professor at UP College of Music

"I am an optimistic person. It also happens to be my year, horse. If only politics were downplayed, perhaps we can surge on and focus on the immediate needs of our country. I wish it would be a better year for us Filipinos!"



Jaime Fabregas, actor and musical scorer

"I have decided not to expect anything one way or the other. I will go through 2002 day by day. Life always gives us a lot of surprises so I will take them and deal with them as they come."



Paco Magsaysay, businessman and president of Asian Vision Cable Company

"I don't expect much economic progress, so I'd like to get the private sector to be more active in helping the less fortunate. We should not rely on government too much."

WHAT/p.C7

baila!

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Fr. Josemaria Escriva's poverty of spirit

BY DAISY LOPEZ
Contributor

OUTSIDE the classroom, a group of students was in a huddle. They were talking about a much-admired professor, who had been working in the slums of Madrid.

Curious, the boys decided to follow the professor after class. They were impressed and, at the same time, surprised at their discovery.

Fr. Josemaria Escriva, their intelligent, proper and correct journalism ethics professor who always looked neat and impeccable, was on one of his regular visits to a hospital, attending to incurable tuberculosis patients. He went around giving them a sponge bath, clipping their nails, cutting their hair, washing their bedpans, making up the beds. He did the chores tirelessly and cheerfully.

Spiritual help was a pressing need as physical help and care for the sick. Once, he helped a gypsy, an outcast in Spanish society, die in peace after a street imbroglio, helping him mutter short prayers until he breathed his last.

Detachment

About then, too, by divine inspiration, Father Escriva had just founded Opus Dei. This was perfect timing. He had gladly taken on a pastoral assignment that had very few takers. Thus he often affirmed that Opus Dei was born among the sick and poor people in Madrid.

But how did he learn to carry himself

that no one ever suspected he had very little or no means at all? It was because he lived and taught that poverty is not shown in tattered clothes—with matching long faces and morose ways—but rather in a true attitude of detachment. Yes, that is what poverty is: a disposition of not giving excessive importance to material goods.

At a very young age, he experienced severe economic difficulties when his father's business went bankrupt. A few years later, when he lost his father, he had to take care of his widowed mother, his sister and youngest brother.

A simple yet significant episode during his childhood gave a clear lesson on detachment. One day, he was walking close to the town square and saw a man selling lollipops lined up neatly on a stall. Suddenly, a gust of wind raised dust, which stuck to the lollipops. One by one, the man got the lollipops and, after licking each, carefully placed them back on the shelf, as good as new! The young boy's fondness for candies changed into repugnance. He realized then that anything in this world could be a passing fancy.

When he noticed he was getting attached to his wristwatch, he gave it up. He did the same with the stampatras inserted in his breviary; as soon as he realized he liked these images so much, he cut them into strips. Then, he started to write short prayers on these pieces of paper which he gave away.

Expression of faith

In this light, we come to understand these two points in Father Escriva's book

The
beatified
Opus Dei
founder said
poverty was
detachment
and denial
of oneself

of spiritual thoughts. "The Way": "Detach yourself from the goods of this world. Love and practice poverty of spirit: be content with what is sufficient for leading a simple and temperate life..."; and "True poverty is not to lack things, but to be detached, to give up voluntarily one's dominion over them" (cf. pt. 632).

Poverty is much linked to generosity. While Blessed Josemaria believed that a lot of things could easily be done without.

After a day of pastoral activity, in which he did not have time to eat, he found one egg omelet on the dinner table. But he sensed that the young fellow who had volunteered to accompany him was more than interested in it. So he offered what could have been his only meal for the day.

On another occasion, after a visit to the doctor for some tests that required overnight fasting, he had to take a late breakfast in a bar. A beggar approached him asking for alms. As he had no money, he readily gave up the piece of bread and coffee. Upon seeing what the priest did, the bar manager served him again: "It's on the house," he offered. But Father Escriva pleasantly remarked, "It's okay. I'm done."

His spirit of poverty was, above all, an expression of faith. Faith and trust in Divine Providence allowed him to make the best of resources.

Blessed Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, will celebrate his birth centenary on Jan. 9.

New Imus bishop's motto is 'It is the Lord!'

WHEN Fr. Luis Antonio "Chito" Gokim Tagle, 44, was ordained bishop of the diocese of Imus on Dec. 12 at Our Lady of the Pillar Cathedral, he declared his motto "Dominus est (It is the Lord!)." It will be his guide in directing his diocese.

Taken from the Gospel of St. John (21:7), the passage tells of the apostles, led by Peter, in the sea fishing one night. They caught nothing. When the newly risen Lord appeared, He directed their fishing, but they did not recognize Him. They caught a bountiful catch, then finally the disciple whom Jesus loved (meaning St. John the Beloved) cried out to Peter: "It is the Lord."

In using this motto as indicated in his coat of arms, Bishop Tagle was entrusting to the Lord the guidance of his flock. Also, "Dominus est" meant that he will focus on the Lord. To achieve this, Bishop Tagle asked the people in his response: "Please teach me, please guide me, please stay with me."

How to accommodate priests, nuns, bishops, cardinals and the laity was a problem that needed to be solved several days before the installation. But moving as one, the whole diocese came up with the solution of opening the plaza in front of the church where other guests could be seated without needing to go inside.

At least 6,000 guests were guided by some 200 ushers in Filipiniana dress. Aylene Perez from the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Binakayan told me that the new bishop had to get out of the church, climb three steps of a stage to be seen by the people, and bless them.

Bishop ordained

Jaime Cardinal Sin together with outgoing Imus Bishop Manuel Sobrevillas ordained Father Tagle. Diocesan administrator Fr. Romeo Ner read the papal bull declaring Father Chito bishop of Imus. Standing before Cardinal Sin with Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J. and Fr. Redentor Corpuz, Father Chito prostrated himself before the altar while the Imus Grand Choir, led by Fr. Bernie Alejo, sang the Litany of Saints.

The rite spoke of humility and total service to the Lord. The Lord is Master, the priest His servant. The congregation itself followed in this commitment to humility and service by kneeling throughout the ritual.

After the Litany, the Cardinal stood alone and sang: "Lord, be moved by our prayers, anoint your servant with the fullness of priestly grace, and bless him with spiritual power in all its richness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

The bishop-elect approached the Cardinal Sin who laid his hands on him. Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco, cardinals from Taiwan and Vietnam, Cardinal Vidal, and other bishops laid their hands on Father Chito.

Afterward, the prayer of consecration was said which was the focus of episcopal ordination. Among the gifts sought for the new bishop was the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Then, Cardinal Sin anointed the bishop-elect. He then handed the Book of the Gospels to the new bishop. This followed the investiture of the ring, miter and pastoral staff.

Afterward, the Cardinal asked the new bishop to seat on the cathedral, which meant that Bishop Tagle was taking canonical possession of the diocese of Imus.

In the Offertory, the offering was done in "caracol" style. The offering was brought by dancing. Removing his miter and putting down his staff, Bishop Tagle joined his parents, Manuel and Milagros Tagle, and danced with them toward the altar. He was their offering to God. Other

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang



presenters of gifts were the five vicariates of the Diocese of Imus, the personnel of the Imus Cathedral and the Tahanan of Mabuting Pastol seminary personnel. Bishop Tagle's only brother, Manuel Tagle Jr., came all the way from Washington, D.C., for the event.

A solemn Roman rite

Asking a priest to explain the symbolism during the ordination of Bishop Tagle, he said it was a mixture of the solemnity and majesty of the Roman rite and the spontaneity and warmth of the Filipinos' popular religiosity.

The entrance of cardinals, bishops and priests preceded by the seminarians of Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol (who did the altar services) and Fr. Alain Manalo, master of ceremonies, with a big overture by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, made the ritual relaxed and not stiff at all. One could read love written on the faces of guests, including fellow priests, as they watched Father Chito go through the rites of episcopal ordination.

That he is a very much-loved priest could be seen in the joy that came with their applause. Father Chito, now Bishop Chito, is a caring and loving priest of God. He is forever humble and soft-spoken despite the honors he gained at seminary school and despite being a consultant of the Holy Father John Paul II.

When I was blessed to attend one fiesta four years ago in Imus, I was brought to Bishop Chito's parents' house for the lunch reception. He himself arrived much later in jeans and T-shirt and made us feel at home. From him, I could learn to be holy and to put God first in my life and work. The people of the diocese of Imus must have the same thing in mind as they lovingly prepared for his ordination.

Lourdes Perez del Rosario, sister of Bishop Felix Perez who ordained Father Chito as priest in 1982, prepared some 5,000 estampita souvenirs for the new bishop as a show of her affection.

A fellow priest of Bishop Chito gave me a framed photograph of him.

He wrote: "He will be a great man of God someday and I am sure you'll be happy to have this picture."

Rosaries for peace

THE FAMILY Rosary Crusade is reminding everyone to pray the Rosary for Peace until Jan. 6. The FRC is promoting the praying of the Rosary by lapsed Catholics by showing them "Ang Buhay ni Kristo," a film made by Fr. Patrick Peyton.

'Far Greater Love' album

JESUIT Communications and the Jesuit Music Ministry have produced a new album, "Far Greater Love," with "Inay" as one of the songs. Written by Fr. Arnel Aquino, S.J., and interpreted by RB Hizon, S.J., the new video of "Inay" was set in Mirador Hills, Baguio. Where to buy, call Jesuit Communications at 426-5971/5926.

Goodbye to hatred, welcome love

AS the New Year draws near, let us say goodbye to negative emotions like hatred. Let us forgive instead and wait for love to come in terms of new friendships and relationships.

Put flowers in your vases on Dec. 31 and welcome 2002 with cheer and gratitude. God gave us good health to be able to help others. Reach out in love. A blessed New Year to you all!

What about trying to learn a new language in the New Year? What about Spanish? Call cell phone (0919) 528-7325.



BISHOP Chito Tagle of Imus says: "Please teach me."

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Merman or Mertz
- 6 Party hearty
- 11 Green bean
- 15 "Mohair" ("65 song)
- 18 Porthos' pal
- 20 Cara or Castle
- 21 Limerick's land
- 22 Arafat's grp.
- 23 I resolve to ...
- 27 Tighten the tent
- 28 NASA affirmative
- 29 Yes
- 30 Actress Zellweger
- 31 Nimble
- 33 Subject
- 37 Geneticist Gregor
- 38 I resolve to ...
- 44 Personify
- 45 "Wait — Dark" ("67 film)
- 46 Groan producer
- 47 Imported cheese
- 51 Unisex garment
- 52 Helmet part
- 53 Writer Harte
- 54 Flock of docs

- 55 Kreskin's letters
- 56 Location
- 58 Western
- 59 Worry
- 60 Primer pooch
- 61 Violinist Isaac
- 63 "Crazy" singer
- 64 I resolve to ...
- 71 Scope
- 72 Evidence
- 73 — de-camp
- 74 Final
- 75 Creature for taming?
- 77 "Roots" writer
- 79 Energy
- 82 Dug in
- 83 Take a gander
- 84 Stout
- 86 Mosaic bit
- 87 Deadly septet
- 89 Quiet — mouse
- 90 — garde
- 91 The Bastille, e.g.
- 93 I resolve to ...
- 97 They've dropped a few bricks
- 100 Poem
- 101 Loathe

DOWN

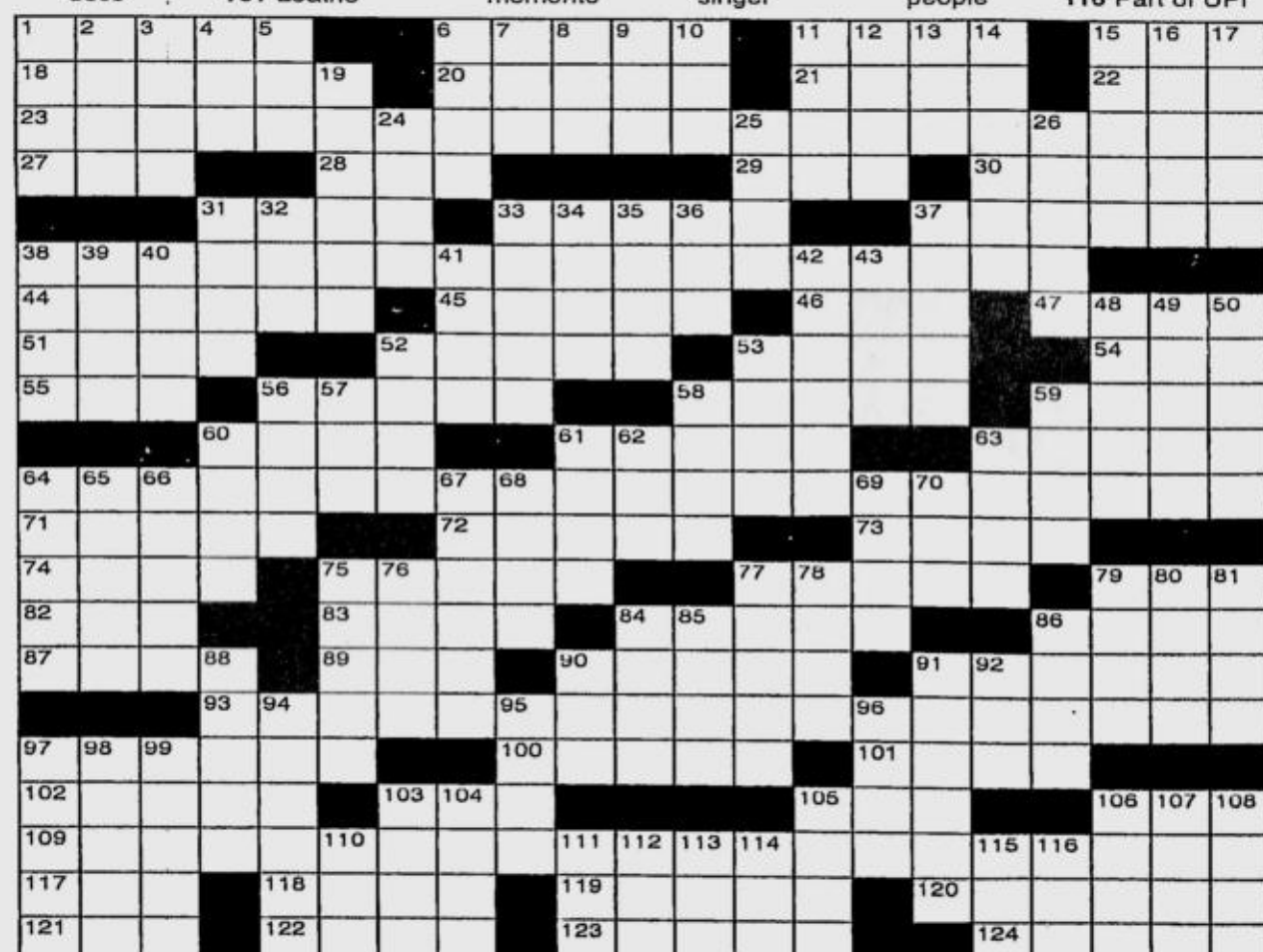
- 1 Tombstone lawman
- 2 "— Colors" ("86 hit)
- 3 Suspend
- 4 Cassowary kin
- 5 Mouth piece?
- 6 Springfield or Moranis
- 7 Muff
- 8 Center of gravity?
- 9 Remnant
- 10 Maul memento

- 102 Light metal group?
- 103 Exist
- 105 Gazzara or Vereen
- 106 Enjoy the Alps
- 109 I resolve to ...
- 117 Laura — Giacomo
- 118 Very impressive
- 119 Like a basket
- 120 Tree trim
- 121 Before, to the Bard
- 122 Late-night name
- 123 Serengeti sahib
- 124 Abolitionist author

- 11 Goranson of "Roseanne"
- 12 "Dies —"
- 13 Russian space station
- 14 One of the Jacks
- 15 Shell out
- 16 "A Delicate Balance" playwright
- 17 "Psycho" setting
- 19 Unctuous
- 24 Mr. Ma
- 25 Secure a carpet
- 26 Thick
- 31 "Rob Roy" extra
- 32 Third degree?
- 33 On edge
- 34 Palindromic name
- 35 Couple
- 36 Out of sorts
- 37 — Carlo
- 38 "— Got Tonight" ("83 hit)
- 39 Singer/actor Ed
- 40 Recipe abbr.
- 41 Desiroy
- 42 Short race
- 43 Tints
- 48 "Mack the Knife" singer

- 49 Change for the better
- 50 Spouses
- 52 Reject
- 53 "— Too Late" ("58 hit)
- 56 Mini-misunderstanding
- 57 Corn holder
- 58 Complaint
- 59 Chimney part
- 60 Agitated state
- 61 Pack the provisions
- 62 Terrible
- 63 "Wild West" showman
- 64 Wing-dings
- 65 Fancy fiddle
- 66 "Hedda Gabler" playwright
- 67 Clamor
- 68 Expedition
- 69 New England campus
- 70 Bakery buy
- 75 Poles and Russians
- 76 Gardener's need
- 77 Ergo
- 78 — Spumante
- 79 Tower town
- 80 "The Time Machine" people

- 81 Quaker colonist
- 84 Done
- 85 Music measures
- 86 Buster Brown's dog
- 88 Pry
- 90 What a feller needs
- 91 Oil source
- 92 Squeal
- 94 Kind of paint
- 95 Neck and neck
- 96 Writer Silverstein
- 97 En — (as a group)
- 98 Hitching post?
- 99 Teatime treat
- 103 Similar
- 104 Puerto —
- 105 — fide
- 106 Mediocre
- 107 Felt certain
- 108 Presque —, ME
- 110 Fossey's friend
- 111 White House monogram
- 112 Quarrel
- 113 — Marie Saint
- 114 DC figure
- 115 — the season ...
- 116 Part of UPI



ANSWER ON METRO PAGE



CARDINAL Sin lays hands on Bishop Chito Tagle.

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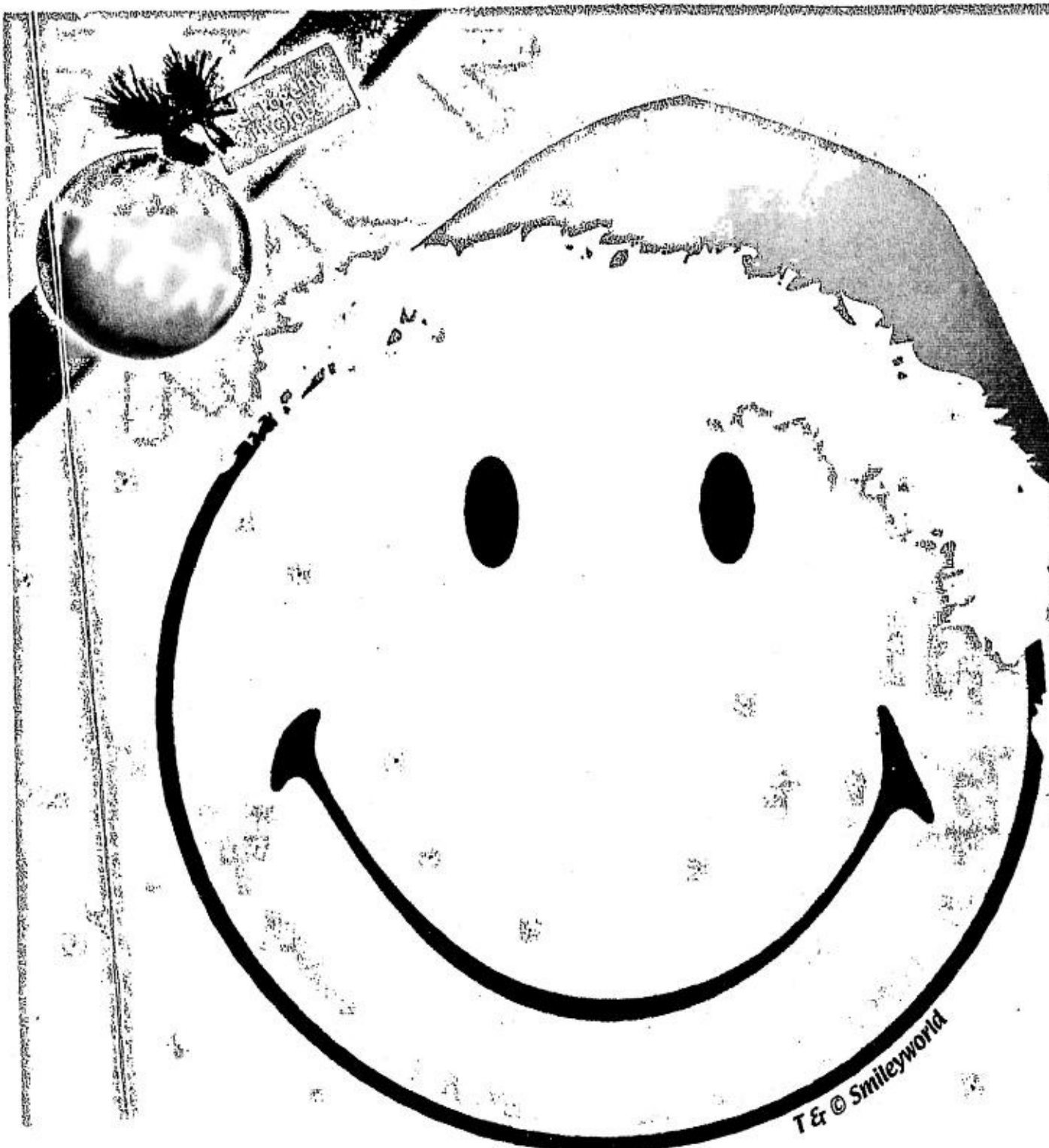
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inyong name, address, telephone number at signature. Ilagay ito sa isang white envelope kasama ng Kwartang-Kwarta pack at ipadala sa TANG KWARTANG-KWARTA RAFFLE PROMO c/o Eat Bulaga, Broadway Centrum, Aurora Blvd., Quezon City 1109.

Prizes to be raffled off are as follows:		
1 winner	- P1,000,000	Grand Draw (March 9, 2002)
3 winners	- P100,000	Preliminary Draw (February 2, 2002)
10 winners	- P10,000	Preliminary Draw (February 2, 2002)

Madaling mag-claim ng cash prize. Dalhin lang ang winning Kwartang-Kwarta pack sa pinakamalapit na Bank of the Philippine Islands branch. Pumunta sa New Accounts personnel na tutulong sa inyong pag-claim ng cash prize. Magdala lang ng isa sa alin mang valid IDs: Company / School ID, Driver's license, Passport, SSS o TIN. Maaaring mag-claim ng cash prizes hanggang 60 days pagkatapos ng promo period.

Promo runs from November 15, 2001 to March 15, 2002.



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Example: TC SMILEY5 0917 2345

Icons

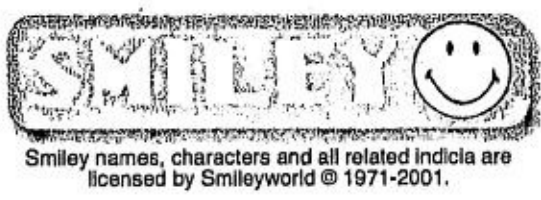


TO DOWNLOAD ON YOUR PHONE:



1. Type in L KEYWORD and send to 2345.
2. SEND TO 2345 and wait for the Smiley icon.

To send a Smiley Icon to your friend's Nokia mobile phone, type in: L KEYWORD <your friend's Globe Handyphone number> <your name> <your Christmas greeting> and send to 2345.



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How to search for your favorites:
Type in GLOBEICONS, GLOBETONES, TEXTCARDS and send to 2333, to get list of available categories.
Type in TONESEARCH ARTIST/SONG and send to 2333, to search for your favorite song's tone keyword.
Visit www.myglobe.com.ph and go to Fun & Games to check complete list of Icons, Tones, Text Cards, and to see Ericsson Tone Guide. myGlobe is available through your GLOBE HANDYPHONE.

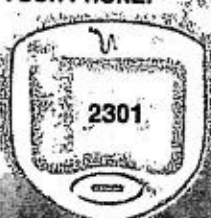
Phon
Icons
Nok
8210
Send

HEY CHRISTMAS Handyphone

Cards



ON YOUR PHONE:



ur friend's Nokia mobile phone, type in:
be Handyphone number> <your name>
eeting> and send to 2301.

9179876543 Alexis Merry Xmas

Tones

XMAS TONES

Title
PASKO NA NAMAN
PASKO NA SINTA KO
JINGLEBELL ROCK
GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
ODE TO JOY
SILENT NIGHT
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS
IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN
SLEIGH RIDE
CHRISTMAS SONG
LET IT SNOW
FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
CHRISTMAS IN OUR HEARTS
LAST CHRISTMAS
THE FIRST NOEL
LITTLE DRUMMER BOY
I SAW MOMMY KISSING SANTA CLAUS
MALIGAYANG PASKO AT MANIGONG BAGONG TAON

Keyword
paskona
paskosnta
(belrock
godres)
ocome
ode2joy
silentni
havurslf
lukskmas
santatwn
sleighri
xmassong
letitsno
frosty
chrsmas
lastxmas
1stnoel
drumboy
isawmom
angpasko

TOP 20 HITS

Title
BAG IT UP
BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP
CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF
CASE OF THE EX
CHARLIE'S ANGEL
CLINT EASTWOOD
DANCE OF SUGAR PLUM FAIRY-NUTCRACKER
GET UP STAND UP
GROW OLD WITH YOU
KID CHARLEMAGNE
LADY MARMALADE
ROLLIN
S CLUB PARTY
SCHOOL'S OUT
SUPERMAN (It's Not Easy)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 1)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 3)
OYE COMO VA
TEQUILA
WOODYWOOD PECKER THEME

Keywords
bagitup
butrcup
cantake1
caseof1
charlies
clinteast
nutplum
getup
growold
kidcharl
ladymarm
rollin
sclub
schools2
superman
uptown
uptown3
oyecomo1
tequila
woodywud

Artist
GERI HALIWELL
various artists
ANDY WILLIAMS
MAYA
CHARLIE'S ANGEL THEME
GORRILAZ
TCHAIKOVSKY, PETER
BOB MARLEY
ADAM SANDLER
STEELY DAN
ALL SAINTS
LIMP BIZKIT
S CLUB 7
ALICE COOPER
FIVE FOR FIGHTING
WESTLIFE
WESTLIFE
SANTANA
CHUCK RIO

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N ODE2JOY

2345

1. Type in N KEYWORD
EXAMPLE: N ODE2JOY

2. SEND TO 2345 and wait
for the Smiley tone

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type in: N KEYWORD <your friend's Globe Handyphone number>
<your name> <your Christmas greeting> and send to 2345.

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Ericsson: J520 (using Nokia keywords)

Tones:
Nokia: 3210, 3310, 3330, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210,
8810, 8850, 8890, 9110 & 9210
Ericsson: GH688, GH768, GH788, 1888, T10s, T18s, T28s Ericsson users must
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Fall of the black Explorer, rise of the wine bar, death of rave and other highlights of 2001

BY CLINTON PALANCA

THERE are two times in a year when everyone suddenly becomes conscious of time: their birthday, and the celebration of Christmas and New Year, which in the western world has been fused into a portmanteau, with an interregnum of five days in between: Christmas is, by definition, the religious celebration, and is usually spent with family; while New Year's is the less solemn occasion, and is more likely to be spent with friends in bacchanalian libation and (in this country) the detonation of small-scale explosives.

Each person has an individual method of celebrating his/her birthday: those of a social nature throw large parties; others celebrate with a small group of friends; and there are a few who simply allow the day to pass with little remark, or in melancholic brooding. Particularly annoying are those who give no notice of their birthday and then wait to see who remembers, and then mark black points against you if you don't. This is a test I always fail: my memory is terrible, and I am sometimes hard-pressed to remember my own birthday, let alone that of others. I myself make it a point to constantly remind everyone that my birthday is coming up, mainly because I'd rather not find out how many people would actually remember.

Looking outward

While birthdays are moments when individuals take stock of their personal lives, the Christmas-and-New-Year holiday is an occasion for an outward-looking assessment, a sudden consciousness of history and how the present fits into the grand sweep of things. Media suddenly begin to proliferate with year-end assessments, prognostications for the future and attempts to find parallels for current events with historical events. While the interpretation of history is always a dicey matter (we don't know, for instance, whether the current War on Terrorism will lead to nuclear holocaust or will simply be relegated to a short paragraph in forthcoming history textbooks), at least the identification of significant events is relatively simple. One merely has to look through the year's archives and see which of the headlines were, metaphorically or literally, written in bold-face: it's easy to judge that "Erap ousted" is more of a highlight than "Supreme court still undecided."

But if journalists are historians of the present, those who deal with less tangible elements of history are in a more uncomfortable position. Critics, for instance, are painfully conscious that their personal assessment should be at least somewhat in tune with the general public response (it is often pointed out that

Christmas-and-New-Year holiday is an occasion for an outward-looking assessment, a sudden consciousness of history and how the present fits into the grand sweep of things

the success of "The Sound of Music" is a testament to the impotence of critics; the same could be said of those who poured scorn on "The Matrix"), even as they grapple with another element fraught with the possibility of embarrassment, which is the judgment of posterity. And in this age when archiving is so easy and accessible, you don't want to be remembered as the critic who poured scorn on what

would subsequently be hailed as "the masterpiece of the century."

I like to think of myself as a cultural observer and commentator. (Everyone must have his delusions.) This is the sort of self-important role taken on by megalomaniacs like Hegel, masters of oblique prose like Barthes, and charlatans such as Camille Paglia. It's also the most difficult field in which you can make snap judgements, because the history of the ideas is essentially about how people thought and viewed the world at a certain time (e.g., the "medieval worldview," the "birth of the modern consciousness," etc.). This puts one in the contortionist position of attempting to analyze one's mindset within the framework of one's mindset. Especially since things change so fast these days (or so we think; perhaps a marauding Visigoth wandering about the ruins of the Roman empire thought so too, and longed for the good old days when life was slower).

And then, finally, there's the problem of relativity: my own life has changed much in the span of a year, and has spawned new circles of friends, new beliefs and a new vantage point. (For all I know, the world might have changed little, but in the meantime I have gone mad.) Imagine watching a movie like "Moulin Rouge" while the optometrist is changing lenses and asking "A or B?" and you've had too much to drink. The optometrist seems to be pretty blasted, too. Definitely not something you can do before breakfast.

Best remembered

Therefore, having given enough caveats to allow myself to be stupendously incorrect, and studiously ignoring the more important historical events for the Section A columnists to dissect, these are a few highlights of how the year 2001 will stand in my memory.

● Try this as an experiment. Switch on MTV at random times of the day, about 10 times, or as many as you feel qualifies as a significant statistical basis. How often do you find it actually playing a music video? How often do you play a video whose imagery is dominated by gyrating bottoms draping themselves about bejeweled men? The music video, in the days before the industry realized its power, was where aspiring talented directors often started their careers. Now that MTV is as much a lifestyle as a channel, the company (trailing by VH1, MCM, Channel [V], etc.) has the power to create a popular band or singer almost arbitrarily while making the viewers think that they've made this choice (Request of the Day, Top 20 Countdown, Viewer's Choice Awards). Prognostication? Hopefully, the rise of alternative music video channels for those who



PARTY SCENE. Trance music and endless rave

appreciate the medium but are not giggling teenage girls.

● Finally, thank heavens, the fall of the black Explorer with tinted windows, drivers on steroids and the sirens that sound like a flatulent hippo. Not that they've disappeared; they're still around, but now that we no longer have a country run by a thief, it's no longer a status symbol to ride around in the vehicle of choice for mobsters and gangsters. Even if it has an LCD television inside.

● The rise of the wine bar. Wine is no longer just the province of crusty farts and effete snobs; it's the sophisticated drink of the year once more (it was all the rage around 33 A.D., as well, when it was endorsed by a very popular figure of the time). So now we have Flute, Shiraz and the like, with Manhattan-like interiors and about 60 different people claiming to be the owner. Other popular drinks include the Cosmopolitan and the lychee martini (a minor sacrilege compared to the chocolate martini and various other unimaginables). Meanwhile, the venerable Giraffe and its infamous lavatories have wandered off; and Stars, true to its name, went from red giant to black hole very, very quickly.

● The slow acceptance of "vintage" clothing. It was during the era of Napoleon III that the idea of the "antique" was invented, and thus something old could actually be more precious than something new. "Vintage" clothing (in other words, secondhand clothes, with the possibility that the previous owner might have died wearing them) was a trend slow to catch on in our culture, always hungry for anything new and a love for brand names (and the ostenta-

tious display thereof).

● The death throes of the rave scene. The underground culture of the glassy-eyed, and suddenly moved into the mainstream, clutching their paraphernalia of glowsticks and mentholated inhalers, and for a while were bouncing about in public and having their parties sponsored by major companies. At least as far as my eye can see, by the end of this year, they will have retreated to the chthonian depths once more, and the chances of suddenly receiving a sweaty hug from a stranger have thankfully, or, dropped.

● The reign of the "bar and grille." The most immediate problem with these establishments is the orthographically irritating "e," which joins the pantheon of superfluous insertions and appendages, along with "musical" and "Jhun." But more disturbing is that while I appreciate the honesty of these restaurants and have had many a good meal at Gerry's and Dencio's, they have essentially stamped out the independent "fine dining" restaurant. At the time of writing, there are no upscale restaurants that aren't part of a hotel. Even Old Manila at the Peninsula has tragically succumbed and "funked" itself up with garish colors, seat covers that seem to be watching you as you eat, and an overabundance of hard light. (The food, despite the menu overhaul, fails to be trendy; this is a great relief, for it continues to be very good.)

● The strange paradox that movies have become more expensive in theaters than on video. I remember (back in the days when the earth was flat) when I would while the afternoon away by buying a cinema ticket for P12 and then

ducking into the air-conditioned darkness. You could sit through the movie a couple of times, doze off and wake up to find someone's head on your crotch. Now, at P120 a screening compared to the P50 VCD, people have taken to using VCDs as the default option; then, if they really like the film, they'll go and watch it at the cinema.

As a footnote (since it's not a trend, but an event), we must mourn the demise of the Pinoy Times, a publication that some might not even have heard of, but was instrumental in the political triumphs of the year. But to say that it had served its purpose is to denigrate the moving spirit behind it, as well as the postulate upon which it was founded: the existence of the intelligent man-of-the-street. Whether its extinction was a matter of bad luck, of its being an idea ahead of its time, or the result of sinister machinations by the CIA, we shall never know.

But then, as we observed at the beginning, there isn't much that we can be certain of. The passage of time will bring the perspective of hindsight and the clarity of context. For the moment, though, there's a certain comfort in relegating 2001 from "Breaking news!" and "What's hot now!" to the other room where the archives are kept, before they go down the chute to the cellar. Meanwhile, we drum our fingers impatiently, as we wait for the future to become the present, so that we can remember it as the past. And growing older doesn't make it any more lucid, either; both you and the optometrist just seem to get more and more drunk as the years roll along. "A or B?" "No clue."

Well, then. Happy New Year.



FIERY TIMES. Thanks for Edsa Dos.

Nobu fund-raiser is a visual and culinary delight

MUST-GO to event—the fund-raising dinner of Nobu, the famed restaurant in New York, comes to Manila. For two nights, Jan. 10 and 11, Filipinos can taste the famous cuisine of chef Nobuyuki Matsushita. It will be a visual and culinary delight. His cuisine is unorthodox, part Japanese, part South American, and entirely sophisticated.

The dinner/fund-raising event is part of Asia Society's Filipino and Proud Program, which features Filipinos who have excelled in various fields abroad. Six Filipino chefs will be preparing the culinary feast, with the consent of Nobu himself. Proceeds of the two-night gastronomic fair will go to Asia Society programs and Bantay Bata's Children Village.

The dinners, which are limited to 100 persons at P5,000 a plate, will be held at the Top of the Citi, Citibank Towers in Makati. For more information and reservations, call Ines Delgado at 752-4374 or fax reservation with preferred dates and number at 752-4375.

Terror in cattle class. With the onset of the economic downturn, traveling economy or cattle class is no longer an option, sometimes it's the only way. After a great time in Hong Kong I took the last flight out back to Manila. Wrong choice. Think: Pinoy with all their boxes and so many TV sets. I was

TNT TRENDS AND TRENDS

Anton San Diego



wondering, can't they buy them here?

The Hong Kong airport is always a breeze to go to, what with the shopping and bookstores, not to mention a new Starbucks outlet. My only problem is how come when it's PAL the terminal is always so far. Anyway, as I was looking for my seat, I saw my seatmate. He was a vertically challenged kid (a politically correct word for *mataba*).

As Christmas tunes were being played, he was singing at the top of his voice. I quickly put my shades on. Because of his vertically challenged state he kept hitting me whenever he moved. After the 10th time he did that I finally glared at him and told him, "Do you mind?" Like a good kid, he apologized.

My seatmate was beside his younger brother, who was reading the in-flight magazine. He chanced upon an ad of Chivas Regal. He bragged to his brother, "Alam mo puede ko nang inumin ito."

The younger brother countered, "Alcohol iyan, masama iyan para sa iyo." He answered, "Nakalagay dito Chivas Regal, 12 years old. Para sa 12 years old ito."

I was too tired to laugh. In hindsight that was the best comic relief of my two-hour journey. I should have made the most of it.

As we were heading to Manila, a smaller and fatter version of the kid beside me was running up and down the aisle. I closed my eyes because he was irritating me. When I opened my eyes, I heard a loud "Pssstttt." He leaned over my leg and told him, "Siguro linahanap mo ako, no?"

My seatmate said, "Oo, saan ka pupunta?"

The kid answered, "Sa banyo, ihi." All of a sudden I felt an arm in my



BEST in 2001: Jeans by Henry Duarte

chair. The father of the fat kid hit my head and leaned on my chair. He then told my seatmate to change the radio channel. Thank God this was a short flight.

As soon as we landed, I literally ran out of the plane so I could be the first in the immigration line. I really cannot understand why there are stairs at Naia 2 leading to the immigration line when there are old folks, carrying so many things. I was so happy I was one of the firsts in the line.

I thought my nightmare was over until I saw Sen. Tessie Oreta, who breezed through the line. It was worse than my experience on the plane. She was the epitome of "Nightmare on Elm Street." I was so shaken by the incident that I felt so tired the whole week. Slowly, though, things are coming back to normal. Will I ever fly economy again? I guess I have to. Will I want to see Tessie Oreta again? I hope not!

Best and Worst of 2001—Part 2. Two weeks ago I started my best and

worst 2001 list. This is its continuation. Enjoy!

Best:

Jeans—Henry Duarte and Levi's engineered jeans;

Movie—"Moulin Rouge" and "Lord of the Rings";

Statement given by a friend when he saw some aging unlikable politicians—"Who let the dogs out, woof!";

Security agents—those sniffing dogs, although they look like *askals* but are great terrorist deterrents, two woofs for you;

Accessory—Hindmarch's Be a bag;

LV's charm bracelet, Balenciaga bag and after his separation from Julia Roberts, Benjamin Bratt;

Heroes—Mayor Giuliani, Lance Armstrong, Edsa 2 people and Shrek;

Dressed actress—Nicole Kidman, despite her divorce, still managed to accessorize and look good in everything;

Hunk—Diether Ocampo, Josh Harnett ("Pearl Harbor") and the Pinoy guy in that Old Spice commercial;

Babe—Sarah Meier, Angelina Jolie and Princess Fiona in Shrek;

Comebacks—Santana, peasant blouse and Linda Evangelista;

Best-looking royal: Queen Raina of Jordan, Prince William and Princess Charlotte of Monaco (daughter of Caroline);

Invention—The segway, self-balancing human transporter;

Hi-tech place to shop—Mobile One and the Hub;

Gym—Oakwood and RCBC gym;

Best renovation—Rustan's Makati; Mall—It was Rockwell, now that Greenbelt is in its finishing stages, this will probably be the mall to beat. Despite the rotunda those trees are spectacular.

Worst:

TV show—"Jenny Jones," although it's entertaining, I wonder why they



WORST dressed of 2001: Björk at the Oscar Awards

keep showing shows focused on "I am a big-breasted lady and I love it!"

Worst drugs—The world has seen E (as in Ecstasy), K (as in Special K) and now the latest drug du jour in party circuits and ravers is called GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate) or its street name, G Purpose is used as grease dissolvent. Its effects are intoxication, increased energy, developing the desire to socialize, be affectionate and playful, sensuality, enhanced sexual experience, muscle relaxation, loss of coordination due to loss of muscle tone. Overdose may lead to the following: nausea, headaches,

drowsiness, dizziness, amnesia, vomiting, loss of muscle control, respiratory problems, loss of consciousness, being conscious but unable to move, and death. Not to be taken with alcohol and drugs. To be forewarned is to be forearmed;

Movie—"Pearl Harbour" and "Planet of the Apes";

Comeback—Michael Jackson; Worst dressed 2001—Björk at the Academy Awards.

Happy New Year!

E-mail the author at asd_world



BEST-LOOKING Royal: Princess Charlotte of Monaco

What should the new year bring?



Rachel Alejandro, singer-actress
"If we are to learn from the events that occurred the past year, I expect that people will love life more, make each day count and be a lot less petty."



Mauro Malang Santos, known for his "Women" series, the country's hottest-selling living artist today and one of its most prolific painters

"I don't see a glimmer of hope in the present administration, even if I have friends there. Most of our voters, too, don't have hope. They chose a dictator, then a woman, a general, an actor and a woman again to lead the nation. *Eh, puro pulitika naman ang alam ng mga 'yan.* I'm not painting a picture of gloom, it's reality. *Sana mangyari sa atin ang nangyari noong time ni Noah* so we could start on a clean slate.

"This coming year, I won't celebrate my birthday with a one-man show. *Hindi dahil sa masama ang market, nakakabenta naman ako.* I just want to rest and travel in Asia. But I will still join group shows. In 2002, my son Soler will open a gallery at Power Plant in Makati while my daughter Sarah will put up one along Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. I'm encouraging my children to make good in the field of arts *dahil baka hindi na ako magtagal sa mundong ito.*"



Patis Tesoro, fashion designer and exponent of indigenous Philippine fabrics

"Filipinos deserve a stronger leader, so I hope FVR runs again for president in the near future. I believe in the man. GMA is no weakling, but we need somebody more decisive with a proven track record like FVR to solve new problems and put an end to recurrent ones. The trouble with GMA is she tries to please everybody and ends up pleasing nobody. She tries to be a leader yet nobody takes her seriously.

"I hope we can ride out this current situation by thinking of ways to help ourselves without waiting for government assistance. In whatever field we're in, now is the time to research and develop something for ourselves and for the country. Let's not wait until the economy gets better because by then it will be too late. I'm planning a fashion show next year and have already decided on what indigenous and imported fabrics to use. Although I've downsized my operations, the challenge is still there to continue to produce better, more original clothes.

(From page C1)



Butch Jimenez, PLDT vice president for media and communications

"2002 is going to be a challenging year for the country. It's definitely going to be like a roller coaster ride. There will be twists, turns and 180-degree revolutions at a blinding pace. We will crawl slowly as we move toward the apex of the track. From there it's downhill all the way at breakneck speed. There will be ups followed by downs, followed by ups again. But the ending will always be the same for us Filipinos. At the end of the ride, we will have a smile on our face as we say, 'That was fun! *Isa pa!*'"



Karen Davila, ABS-CBN news anchor of "Headline News," co-host of "The Correspondents" and radio commentator on dzMM

"In 2002, I'd like to see a major breakthrough in the Erap trial, a better economy, more job openings than retrenchments and a healthy baby for me."

Martin Nievera, singer, composer, Gift Gate image model and Smart Zed endorser
"I expect more opportunities to sing and be a voice for my country to sing to the world. I see more positive performances and songs that not only bless, but also inspire. That will be my mission for the year 2002 until I see the world smile again!"



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Chico Science

Lenny Kravitz



Larusso

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Today's prize courtesy of:



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HINT: Check-out Lifestyle section on Monday, December 31, for Inquirer's My Wish Box.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Ai-Ai who has everything

How would you classify
your comedy?

Slightly brutal.

(Laughter) Slightly.

'Punung-puno ng aral'

(Laughter)

COMEDIENNE Ai-Ai de las Alas arrived for Playtime with her three beautiful children, namely Sancho Vito, 11, Shaun Nicolo, 8, and Sophia Andrea, 5. She planned to take them to the Power Plant in Rockwell and spend more time with them before her trip to Japan the following day for the taping of "MTB's" Christmas presentation.

Life is good to Ai-Ai these days. Well, let's rephrase that—life has been dealing Ai-Ai aces since she moved to ABS-CBN. She's happy with the way her career has been going; a regular spot in the daily noontime TV show "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" has been keeping her busy and a string of successful concerts has earned her the title "comedy concert diva." Her next outing should rightfully be called "Ai-Ai Who Has Everything."

PLAYTIME

By the staff

Ever a talking mouth about the "storms" in her life, including one failed marriage and a miserable childhood, Ai-Ai has chosen to keep mum about her very public rift with Rosanna Roces.

Ai-Ai turned a bit emotional—if you can imagine

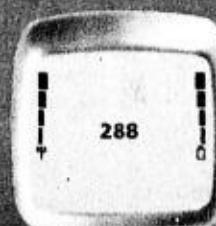
AI-AI/ p.D2

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Ai-Ai who has everything

(From page D1)

this very funny lady turning emotional—when asked to give her side of the story. And while she obliged, she begged that it be off the record. So sorry, folks, no dirty details here.

One day, she hopes to be friends again with Osang. Because "sa damidami ng suwerteng nangyayari sa akin ngayon, parang ayoko na rin siyang gawing enemy."

In other words, Ai Ai wants peace for the coming year.

Kailan ka nag-start sa ABS-CBN?

This year, May. Mga eight months na.

Was (Rosanna Roces) one of the reasons you moved from GMA 7 to ABS-CBN?

Hindi naman, kasi unang-una, wala na kasi akong show sa GMA. "1-4-3" lang. Kumbaga, gusto ko namang mag-grow. Gusto kong madagdagan ang kita ko kasi lumalaki na rin 'yung mga bata. Eh wala rin silang plano for me. Noong 1999 pa ako kinukuha kaso hindi ko nga lang din maiwan ang "1-4-3" kasi si Bosing (Vic Sotto) nahiya ako kasi siya ang nagbigay ng trabaho sa akin. At si Rosanna din kaibigan ko, so hindi ko maiwanan. Nu'ng medyo pakiramdam ko puwede na akong umalis, tinanggap ko na 'yung offer ng Channel 2.

Was it hard for you to tell Vic or Joey (De Leon) that you'd be moving to ABS-CBN?

Kay Bosing lang kasi siya 'yung may-ari ng M-Zet. Si Joey de Leon hindi ako nagpaalam sa kanya kasi hindi naman kami magkasama, eh. Si Vic, dinimer ko siya. Sabi ko, "Bosing, ano?" Sabi niya, "Ano nga? Bilisan mo na!" "Kasi lilipat ako ng Channel 2." Binilisan ko nga. Tapos sabi niya, "O sige, okay. Ano ba 'yung kontrata mo? Parang exclusive ka?" Sabi ko, "Ewan ko. Parang hindi naman yata." "In any case, huwag ka nang kumuha ng sitcom na nanay ka or may asawa ka kasi bakla gumawa tayo ng sitcom na ganu'n." Eh kaso exclusive ako.

What was your contract with Vic Sotto on "1-4-3"? Kasi parati kitang nakikita sa show na guest ka lang pero every week, nandoon ka.

Per season. Ewan ko sa kanila.

You didn't even ask?
Kasi ako kung ano 'yung bigay niyo sa akin, kung ano 'yung kaya kong bigay sa inyo, ibibigay ko 'yung best. Eh ganu'n lang yata 'yung gusto nila, eh. Di ganun. Siyempre, hindi naman ako makapag-demand. Ano ba naman ako doon? Hindi naman ako nagde-demand ever since sa GMA.

Were there other offers from GMA? Say, join "Eat Bulaga" or any of their other shows?

Hanggang ngayon nga inisip ko 'yun, eh. Hindi naman masama ang loob ko kay Joey de Leon, no? Pero noong lumipat ako sa ABS-CBN, in fairness naman sa akin, ang show ko talaga doon "MTB Saturday" and "Ariba." So nabuntis si Christine. Ang nangyari, isinali na nila ako sa "MTB." Isinali nila ako kasi kulang na ng babae. So noong tinira-tira ako ni Joey de Leon, hindi masama ang loob ko sa kanya pero nag-isip ako na bakit ka nagagalit, eh, hindi naman ako taga-"Eat Bulaga?" (Laughter) Nine years ago sa GMA, never ninyo akong kinuha sa "Eat Bulaga." Kinukuha niyo lang ako 'pag absent si ganito. Ang weird. Na-weirdan ako. (Laughter)

So wala kang exclusive contract sa GMA?

Wala.

How many years were you with GMA?

Nine. Puro loyalty lang 'yun. (Laughter)

How's your relationship with Osang? The talk is that you were best friends and then you had a fight.

Puwedeng huwag na natin siyang pag-usapan sa interview na ito? (Laughter) Kasi parang parati na lang sa interview kailangan kasali siya. Tapos 'pag siya, ako rin.

But you're on speaking terms?

Hindi na kami nag-usap.

How long have you not spoken to each other?

Di ba sabi ko, huwag na nating pag-usapan? (Laughter)

Konti lang. Baka makalusot.

(Laughter)

Dinadahan-dahan, eh.

Exclusive ka sa Channel 2, but don't you also appear with Allan K?

Sa Channel 5. 'Yun, hindi ko alam ang usapan nila doon. Hindi naman ako nagbasa ng contract. Si Boy [Abunda] ang may alam nu'n, eh. Pero ang alam ko, kasi nauna 'yun, eh. Bago ako lumipat ng Channel 2, nandoon na ako. Three years na 'yung show na 'yun. At tsaka, hindi naman masyadong nati-threaten ang Channel 2 sa Channel 5, eh. Bale, pinaka-rival nila talaga GMA 7. Kaya doon sila medyo mahigpit.

Are you happy with your ABS-CBN contract?

So happy. Ika nga nila, parang ngayon lang ako nakatikim ng popularidad. (Laughter) In 12 years.

Aren't you afraid of overexposure? Ang dami mong shows ngayon.

"Whattamen," "Arriba." Hindi na. Sabi ko nga, in 12 years na nagtrabaho ako in show business, parang ngayon lang dumating sa akin itong opportunity na ito so bakit ko pa iisipin ang overexposure? Eh 'pag hindi naman na ako kailangan ng show biz, nonexposure na rin ako. (Laughter) Di ba? In show business kasi, that's the name of the game, di ba? So habang mainit pa ako, eh di sige nang sige. Mag-ipon. So kung ayaw na nila sa 'akin, eh di okay, fine. At least, na-

establish ko na ang mga anak ko.

How many years have you been in the business?

Twelve.

And what do you plan to focus on? Kasi mayroon kang hosting, mayroon kang sing-along, mayroon kang comedy.

Comedian naman ako talaga, eh. Eto, sa January, guest ako sa "MMK" (Maalaala Mo Kaya).

Drama? What's your role?

Nanay. Nanay na... Ang paniniwala ko naman, ang mga komediyante, magaling magdrama, eh. Bakit si Tito Dolphy, nanalo siya ng Best Actor? Tsaka lahat ng napapanood kong komediyante, si Kuya Dick, noong nag-"MMK" siya, ang galing-galing. Nanalo yata 'yun ng award-award.

Why did you say that was your last concert?

Major. Last major ko kasi wala. 'Yun lang naman ang dream ko, eh. Makapuno ng malalaking venues. Nagawa ko na 'yung Araneta, ayoko namang sagarin 'yung swerte. Parang kumbaga sa Blackjack, 20 na ako, eh. Baka mabutata pa, hindi na maganda. Eh 'yung susunod, 'pag hindi napuno, patay ako.

Si Pops (Fernandez) daw nag-renew when you declared you are now the Concert Queen.

Hindi ko naman dineclare na ako. Sinabi ko na siya pa rin ang original pero kinakabahan na sila. (Laughter) Parang nakita nila na, "Eto na ang kakabog sa amin." (Laughter)

You mean you were not serious?

(Laughter)
Na parang kakabahan na sila kasi dumating na ako? (Laughter) Alam ko namang confident sila. Hindi naman sila nenerbiyusin talaga, eh. Diyos ko, marunong ba akong kumanta? (Laughter) Dinapan lang ako ng swerte.

Your concerts are medyo pang-mature audiences. How do you explain that to your kids?

'Pag 'yung medyo bastusan na, papasok na sila sa backstage. Hinihila na ng mga yaya. Rule na 'yun. Alam na nila. Magko-comment 'yan, "Ma, ano naman 'yan?" (Laughter) 'Pag medyo sexy-sexy, "Ma, ano 'yung suot mo?" Gaya 'yung sa Araneta ko, talot 'yung boobs ko kasi out of this world.

So how would you classify your comedy?

Slightly brutal. (Laughter) Slightly. Punung-puno ng aral. (Laughter)

You have satire, you have impersonation?

Isang beses lang. Si Imee lang kasi parang siya lang ang kaya ko. Si Annabel Rama? Ahh, si Laarni. (Laughter) Wala, costume lang 'yun. Pero 'yung akinganila, hindi ko rin naman kaya. Medyo plakada ko lang si Imee. (Laughter)

What are you going to do next? You seem to have done everything.

Oo. Kaya nga sabi ko last major concert.

You're still young. What do you plan to do?

TV. Series of shows at Music Museum. Comedy. Satire. Kailangan ko 'yun kasi pampa-ano ng utak. Para maka-memorize ako.

Have you starred in a movie?

'Yun ang gusto ko. Gusto kong mag-movie. Gusto ko isang box-office hit naman... And isang album na hit din. Kasi lahat ng album ko hindi sumikat. (Laughter)

You mean you have an album?

(Laughter)

O, di ba? Tama ako? (Laughter)

As in photo album? (Laughter)

Parak! Sabi ko nga, hindi sumikat album ko.

How many? (Laughter)

Dalawa. (Laughter) Parehong hindi sumikat. 'Yung una, sa Ivory, 'yung "Ano." Ang "Ano" ay isang kataga. (Laughter) Tapos 'yung pangalawa, sa Concorde. 'Yung "Shit, I love you." Hindi ma-airplay kasi nga may "shit."

Do you have any role models in show biz? Foreign or local?

Ate Vi. Gusto ko 'yung naging buhay ni Ate Vi, favorite ko 'yun... Wala na. Siya lang ang kilala kong buhay, eh. 'Yung iba, hindi ko na alam.

What do you like about Ate Vi's life? Hahanap ka rin ng mestizo? (Laughter)

Correct. Tsaka tingnan mo ang lola mo, marunong mag-shift sa kung anu-ano. (Laughter) Di ba hanggang ngayon kumikita pa rin 'yung movies niya? Tapos, mayor siya. Kagalang-galang. May pamilyang maganda. May asawang maayos. Gusto ko ganu'n.

Isn't your gender preference still an issue?

Oo. Huwag kang maingay. (Laughter)

How did that issue come up?

Wala kasi noong araw, parang may interview ako about my virginity. Di ba, uso noong high school 'yung mga



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ganyan? Tungkol sa sex ever, chenelyn. (Laughter) So sumagot ako. Never naman akong nagsisunungaling sa mga interviews ko, eh. Sinasabi ko lang 'pag hindi puwedeng sabihin pero never akong nag-deny.

May nangyari?

Oo.

At may nangyayari? (Laughter)

Wala pa. (Laughter) Alam naman nila na marami akong friends na ganu'n, eh. Mga bading, mga tivoli.

Is this like your revenge on men? That you can live without men?

Hindi naman. Kaya ko talaga [to live without men]. Siguro ganu'n lang talaga ako. Nagkataon lang na may mga anak ako. Kasi first sexual experience ko is from...

But why the sudden shift from north pole to south pole? (Laughter)

Siguro para bata pa lang talaga ako.

So underneath is the heart and soul of a... (Holds up hand to make the "L" sign.)

Correct! Bi.

In show biz, are you eyeing someone? Kris Aquino has been linked to you, right?

(Laughter) Nakakatawa! Sino pa ba?

Are you happy with your ABS-CBN contract?

So happy. Ika nga nila, parang ngayon lang ako nakatikim ng popularidad. (Laughter) In 12 years

Patricia Javier.

Is there truth to that talk?

Wala. Niloloko ko lang sila: "Si Ai-Ai, nakakatawa!" "Uuy, may gusto kayo sa akin." (Laughter)

How does it affect your children?

Alam naman nila. Hindi naman ako nagtatago sa kanila, eh.

But do they understand?

'Pag laki nila. And kahit sila, tinatanong ko, "Anak, bading ka ba?"

"Ano ba, ma? Bakit mo tinatanong?"

"At least, para bata pa lang kayo, alam ko na." Maganda 'yung nagsasama tayo na honest tayo sa isa't-isa... Maganda kaya ako sa picture? (Laughter)

Do you get to help your kids with homework?

Bihira.

Hindi ka nakaka-attend ng PTA meeting?

Nakaka-attend.

Are you asked to perform in their schools?

Correct! Eto, katatapos lang. Nag-encee ako sa Miriam.

Gratis?

Motherly image. (Laughter) Sabi ko, 'yung mga principal niloloko ko, "O, ayan hal Ma'am, libre ito, ha? Wish ko lang honor 'yung mga anak ko." (Laughter)

"Naku, ngayon pa lang nararamdaman ko na, may honor ang mga anak ko." Tawa nang tawa ang mga teachers. Parati. Mga honor 'yan. Eto din, honor 'yan. Eto, ang galing-galing nito [referring to Sofia]. Artistic. Kostka 'yung dalawa. Miriam ito.

How long does it take for you to prepare for a concert? How do you do it?

Merong skeleton. Tapos 'yung gitna sa akin. Pag-andar, ako na; 50-50 'yun... Kaya nga tulala ako after the show, eh. Kasi iisipin ko 'yung blocking, iisipin ko kung sino 'yung susunod na guest. Iisipin ko 'yung buong flow ng show. After ng show, tulala na ako.

Do you still get tense when the audience doesn't react to what you say?

Hindi na.

Is there always a reaction?

Oo. Kumbaga 'pag alam kong hindi nag-react sa first time, ang ibabato ko 'yung sure ball na ako na magre-react sila. Experience din kasi.

Were you always like this? Were you a comic even during your high school days?

Depende... Pag kasama ko 'yung mga kaibigan ko, komikera ako, 'pag kailangan. Pero 'pag hindi, parati lang ako nag-iisa. Ako ay batang nag-iisa. Lumaki akong nag-iisa kasi adopted ako, hindi ako lumaki sa mga kapatid ko. So 'pag magulo itong tallo, isang oras ko pa lang kasama, nagkukulang na ako sa kuwarto. "Ang gugulo!" Eh, maximum sila sa ingay. Parang may Edsa 4.

Do you spank your children?

Bihira. Pag namamalo ako, naiiyak ako. Sinasabihan ko sila. 'Pag pinalo ko sila, sinasabi ko sa kanila 'yung reason kung bakit sila pinalo. Na huwag silang magagalit sa akin kasi hindi ko naman 'yun ginagawa para saktan sila. Ginagawa ko 'yun para madisiplina sila.

'Yung mga nag-adopt sa iyo, pinapalo ka din nila?

Oo.

How did it happen that you got adopted?

Hay naku, nakakatawa. Kasi marami kami. Pang-six na ako. 'Yung auntie ko na matandang dalaga sabi sa nanay ko, "Ate, 'pag babae 'yan, akin na lang, ha?" Parang tata, di ba? (Laughter) Ang nanay ko napaka-naive. 'Yung tatay ko naman, medyo may pagka-powerful, napakadominante. Sinabi sa nanay ko, "Bigay na lang natin 'yan sa kapatid ko." Ayun, binigay ako. Ganun kasimple.

Did you resent that while you were growing up?

Once. Kasi noong minsan sa grade school ako, mababa 'yung grades ko. Sabi ng nanay ko, "Ibalalik na kita sa..." So parang na-off ako kasi hindi ko naintindihan. Parang ano 'yun? Bakit ako ginagann? 'Yun pala ang reason.

You didn't know?

Ako, OA? Parang isa nga yata ako sa hindi OA. (Laughter) Wala. Okay lang. Siguro opinion nila 'yun. Di naman lahat ng tao gusto ka, eh. 'Yun na lang inisip ko.

Are you relaxed now because you have rapport with the audience?

Oo. And alam ko na rin na talagang ang tao 'pag hindi mo mapilit na tumawa, huwag mo na lang pinipilit kasi nagiging hardell 'yung dating nu'n.

But is it true that comedians are some of the loneliest people?

Oo. Siguro kasi 'yung malalim na humuhugot 'yan ng pain sa mga nangyayari sa buhay niya. Ginagawa nilang comedy so nagiging effective.

You make fun of yourself. Hindi ba masakit 'yun?

Sa akin, hindi. Hindi naman yourself, 'yung buhay. Kesa naman you make fun of others, di sarili na lang. Ma-offend pa sila.

But you make fun of the audience, too.

Oo pero for happiness' sake lang, para masaya. (Laughter)

Wala ka bang napipikon?

So far, wala pa naman. Ganda nga, eh. Si Jude lang. (Laughter) Nagalit siya sa akin dati. Pero ngayon bati na kami.

What was the issue? Was he in the audience?

Folk Arts 'yun. Hindi. Puro taga-Malacañang 'yung mga nanood.

What did you say or sing that was offensive to him?

Hindi ako, si Joey de Leon... "Livin La Vida Loca." Pero ang theme ng song, tinagalog niya, mga bading sa show biz sa Hollywood. 'Yun ang tono. Tapos may exchange na, "Si Boy Abunda ba, bading?" "Hoy, tsismis lang 'yun." "Si Ricky Reyes ba, bading?" "Alam mo, tsismis lang 'yun." Ako 'yung nagtatatag, siya 'yung sumasagot. Tapos bumitaw ako, "Si Jude Estrada ba, bading?" Hindi sumagot, iniwan ako. Nagalit sa akin si Jude.

Wild 'yung mga tao?

Oo. Super wild talaga 'yung mga tao. Eh ang daming nanood na taga-Malacañang.

Ang lakas naman ng loob mo. (Laughter) When did you realize you said something wrong?

After the show.

Kinabahan ka?

Oo. Kasi alam kong galit siya.

Bati na kayo ngayon?

In fairness, nanood siya ngayon. Bati na kami.

Pano mo nalamang nagalit siya?

May nag-text sa akin. Marami. Nag-sorry ako sa kanya. Sabi ko, pasensiya na siya.

But why would he get angry if there was no truth to it?

Siyempre, in fairness, ayaw naman talaga nila ng ganoon. 'Yung buhay nila, dapat hindi niyo pinagkuwentuhan, di ba? In fairness sa kanila, nasa posisyon sila noon.

Do you get invited to parties by the elite? Di ba sila mahirap

mga...

Don't you make fun of the Chinese in your shows? Doesn't that upset them?

Hindi. Naa-amaze nga ako, eh. Tinanong ko na nga sila. Kunwari dinmer tapos nagecha-Chinese ako na hindi naman naintindihan, 'yung tunog lang. Tapos tawa sila nang tawa. Sabi ko, "Bakit hindi kayo nao-offend 'pag ginagawa ko 'yun?" Sabihin nila, "Eh kasi, tunog, eh. Katunog. Hindi mo lang maintindihan pero katunog."

Where do you live?

Commonwealth. North Susana.

Is it a mansion?

Hindi naman. Simple lang. Pero siyempre, million pa rin doon sa part na 'yun.

May security guard?

Oh, yes. Nakatira doon sila Vina [Morales], Beverly Hills nga tawag ko, eh. Sina Vina, Judy Ann.

Bakit dun ka nagtayo ng bahay?

Ewan ko. Malapit kasi, eh. Malapit sa Channel 2, Channel 7.

Si Giselle (Sanchez) parang nainspire siya sa concert mo. Sana nga daw someday she can fill Araneta like you've done.

Lahat naman 'yan kaya ko rin ginawa para doon sa mga susunod pang mga komediyante sa Pilipinas. Kasi noong araw, ina-analyze ko, bakit 'yung mga komediyante noong araw, parang ang liit-liit lang ng sweldo? Walang ginagawa kundi batuk-batukan lang. (Laughter) Kumbaga, walang aesthetic value 'yung mga pinagagawa nila. And so parang sabi ko, bakit sa Hollywood, sina Whoopie Goldberg, di rin naman magaganda pero nagdadala ng movie? Magaling. So 'yun din ang gusto kong gawin dito para naman iangat 'yung comedy natin dito sa Pilipinas. Sa part na 'yun, nagawa ko naman and sana mapagpatuloy din nila.

What did you do differently? How come other comedienne can't seem to get a good break like you?

Dumaan din naman ako doon, 12 years. Siyempre, iginapang ko din kung nasaan man ako ngayon. Kung bago, parang step by step talaga. Kaya iningatan ko. And siguro kaya rin ako ganito na kumbaga, minsan nagbabait-baitard ako. Nagpapasensiya kasi ang sardom naman sa akin, talagang iginapang ko.

How would you compare your comedy when you started with your comedy now? Have there been changes? Are you more sophisticated now?

More relaxed but more exciting. (Laughter) Medyo bastos lang nang konti pero relaxed na ako.

Some people say you're a bit O.A. Masyadong forced. So how do you address this?

Ako, OA? Parang isa nga yata ako sa hindi OA. (Laughter) Wala. Okay lang. Siguro opinion nila 'yun. Di naman lahat ng tao gusto ka, eh. 'Yun na lang inisip ko.

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You make fun of yourself. Hindi ba masakit '



CALVIN Millado with Dante Sapalo and Jed Carlos at Venezia



Gem Padilla with composer Nonong Pedero at Venezia



MARISSA and Joey Concepcion



JACQUELINE from Switzerland and Boots Moyer



HEIDI Ng and Vina Morales



LOUIE Ysmal, Ed Roxas and Jamie Lee Huisman from Holland



MARTIN Lopez, Jay Diego and Manolet Garcia



MARIO Katigbak with Alan Albes and Glenn Cuevo



MILLIE Reyes, flanked by Nina Romualdez and Albert Garcia, during her 50th Christmas birthday at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

December's not just Christmas season

WE all share the spirit of Christmas, but for Calvin Millado, Heidi Ng, Millie Reyes, Manolet Garcia, Louie Ysmal, Mario Katigbak, Amiel Martin Cabanlig, Mojo Javier and Ricky Gallardo (born on the 25th), the season is more than just a religious holiday. It always calls for a double celebration.

Our December-born celebrators always party for two reasons—their birthdays and Christmas.

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AMIEL Martin Cabanlig (seated left) and Mojo Javier (seated right) blow the candles on their cake at their Pasig condo

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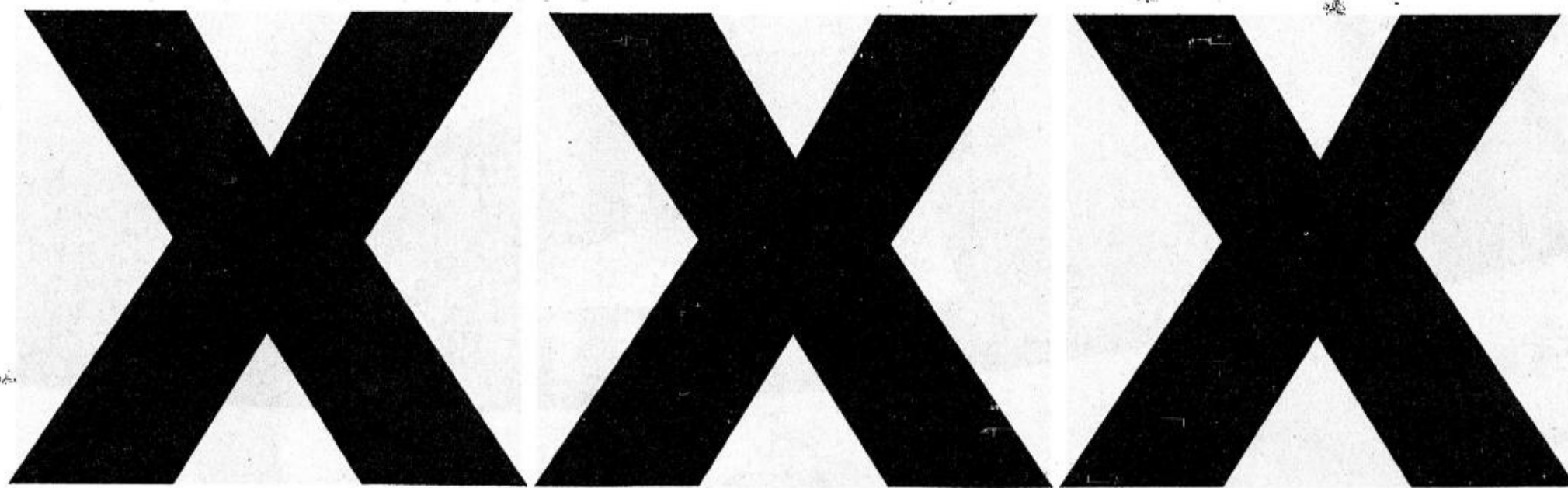
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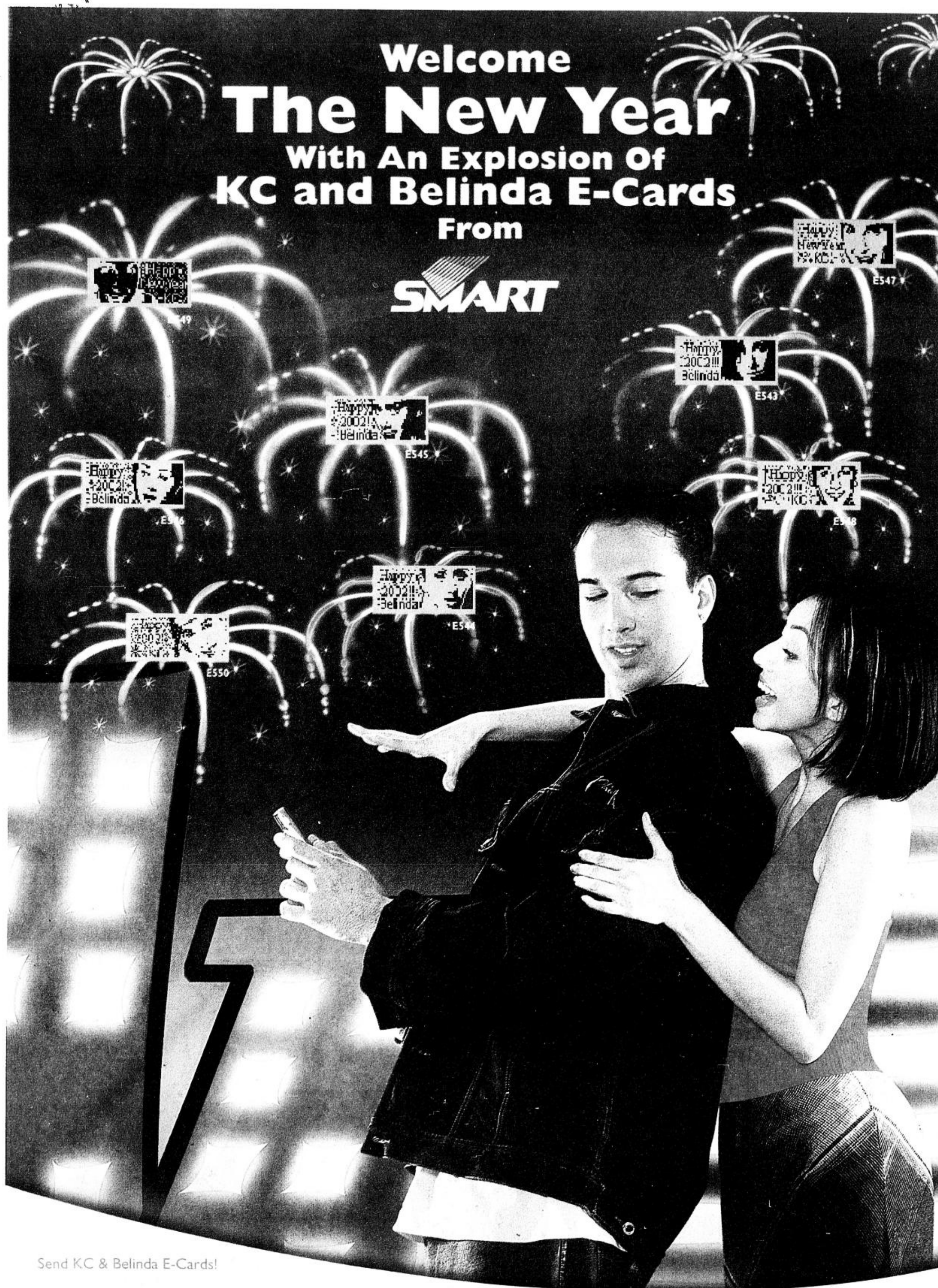
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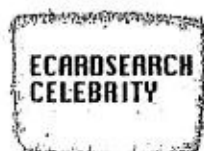
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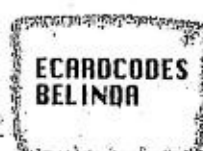
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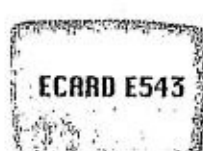
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Simply Amazing!



COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

ALAS for "Bagong Buwan," which had been much touted by the Star Cinema-ABS-CBN publicity juggernaut as the most important film of this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. The movie about the Mindanao conflict was beaten in the best picture race by Lily Monteverde's glossy "Yamashita, the Tiger's Treasure," a movie about treasure-hunting. Marilou Diaz-Abaya, twice declared best director of the film festival in the last three years, lost to Chito Roño, who was not even around to accept the trophy.

What happened? The movie's defenders point to politics as the culprit. It is said that when the movie was screened at the ABC-CBN preview room, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes did not hide his dismay that the movie, which tackles the Muslim-Christian conflict, might further stoke the fires of conflict in Mindanao. Reyes' reaction might have been emotional enough as to compel actor Cesar Montano to remind him that he might have missed the point of the movie: War is wrong.

So between the preview and the awards night, did something happen? We don't know. It is inconceivable for the defense establishment to have lobbied hard for the major awards not to be given the movie. After all, the movie had been approved for showing by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board and rated A by the Film Ratings Board. If Reyes had really considered the movie a security threat, he would have lobbied for its banning by the MTRCB and FRB.

What might have done in "Buwan" could be the general antipathy of certain members of the jury against Abaya. Many of the jurors are from the Film Academy of the Philippines, which shut out Abaya's "Jose Rizal" in the 1999 FAP Awards and awarded the best picture to a now-forgotten Rudy Fernandez starrer. Majority of the jurors are also known supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada. Abaya, it will be recalled, openly supported the mass protests that led to Estrada's downfall and who helped in the early transition of the Macapagal-Arroyo government.

The real injustice

PERHAPS its defenders are making too much out of "Buwan's" awards debacle. After all, the movie is a box-office hit and its runner-up finish and A-rating from the FRB assure it of tax breaks and profitability. The greater injustice may have been committed against, for example, "Tatarin," which was completely ignored by the jurors, most of whom might have no knowledge that the movie was based on Nick Joaquin's short story "Summer Solstice" and play of the same title. They might even not know who Nick Joaquin is.

The greater injustice may have also been committed against the movies that didn't make it to the finals, such as Lav Diaz's five-hour "Batang West Side," which won a special award in the last CineManila international film festival. The funny thing is that the organizers had to adjust the number of finalists from the usual six to seven in order to accommodate such inaneities as "Susmaryosep-Four Fathers," "Bahay ni Lola" and "Hindi Kita Ma-Reach."

This councilor needs counseling

QUEZON City Councilor Bong Suntay can be gun-happy and mean especially when jealous, his constituents should know. Before Christmas, he beat up a man whose only sin was to accept an offer of

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Did politics spoil awards chances of 'Bagong Buwan'?

FADED GLORY.
And worse, so why
not retire it?

PHOTO BY ERIKARAZAS



lunch from Suntay's spouse, Sheila Guevarra.

According to the statement of Chris Cuaso before the San Juan municipal police, Guevarra, his gym mate, texted him while he was in his condominium suite on Pasadena Street. She was downstairs with food and asked if he could have lunch with her. He told her to come up.

Apparently Suntay had been trailing his wife. By the time she reached Cuaso's apartment, the councilor was right behind her, much to her surprise. Suntay reportedly pulled out a gun, cocked it and pointed it to Cuaso's temple. "I can kill you right

now," he allegedly said.

Cuaso said he tried to calm down Suntay. The councilor put down his gun, but hit Cuaso in the head with the handle. Cuaso passed out. When he recovered, Cuaso said he was bloodied and bruised all over. The councilor allegedly beat him up while he was unconscious. There were also bullet holes on his wall.

What would Marcela Agoncillo say?

IS Manila Mayor Lito Atienza aware that the Phil-



ippine flag on Plaza Moriones in Tondo faded, tattered and torn? An aghast Tondo resident made at least six phone calls to four offices under City Hall (including one directly under the mayor's office), but three

weeks have passed and the flag still has to be replaced. Does anybody in City Hall care for our national symbol at all? It irks the resident that local officials have money to put up streamers and billboards greeting their constituents a "Maligayang Pasko," but they can't even spare a few pesos to buy a replacement flag.

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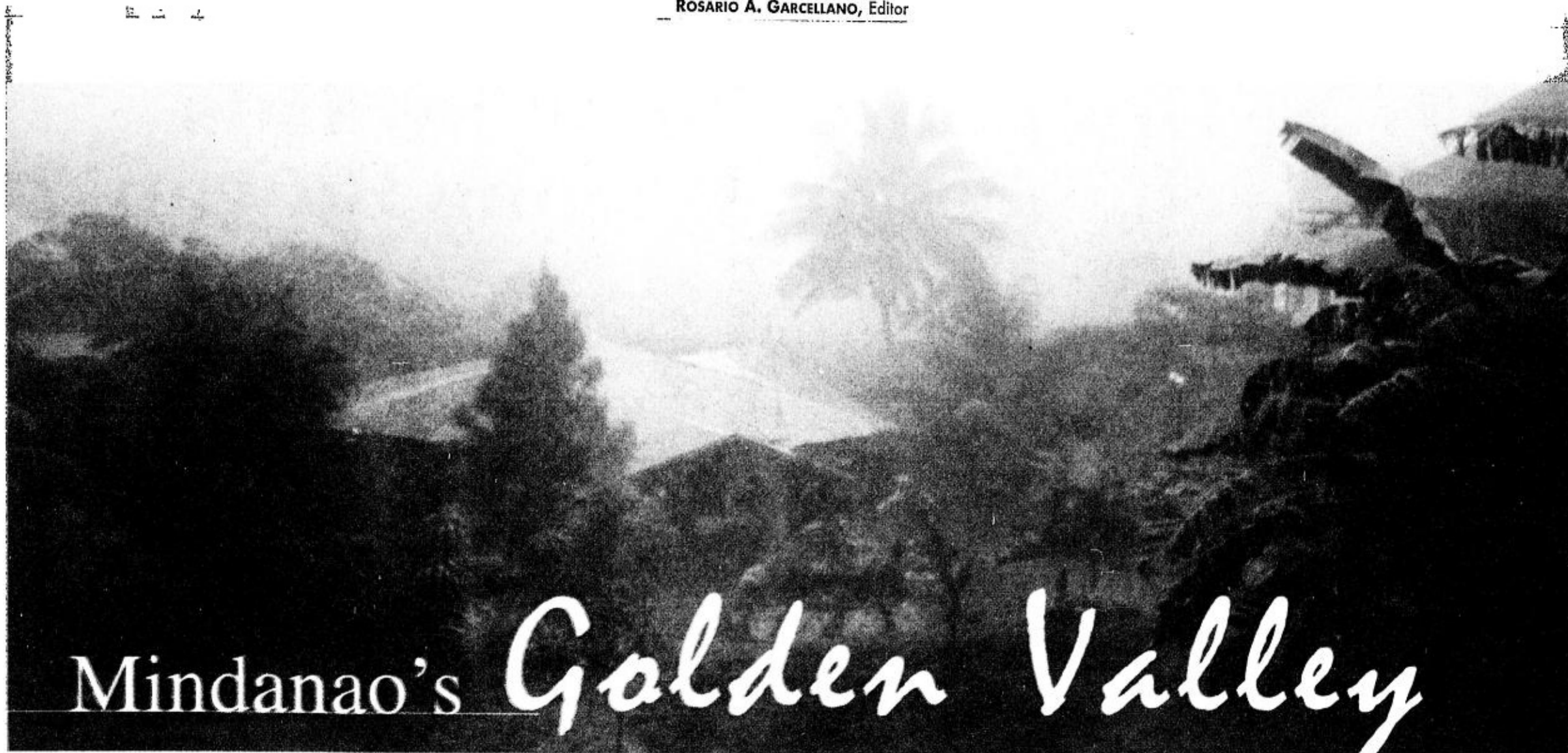
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Mindanao's Golden Valley

Misty morning in Nabunturan
TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY AMADIS MA. GUERRERO

THEY call it the Golden Valley of Mindanao: Compostela Valley (ComVal), our newest (78th) province, carved out of Davao del Norte in 1998.

The name is apt. In the fatal year of 1983, one Datu Banag discovered gold in Diwalwal, Moncayo—and a gold rush ensued.

"The methods of extraction were crude and we encountered many problems, especially with the small-scale farmers," recalls Senior Forest Management Specialist Percival F. Cadeña (who is from Los Baños, Laguna) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Gold continues to be extracted from the bowels of the Compostela Valley. And from time to time, according to reports, there are clashes between the big miners (who have permits) and the small miners, who are reportedly protected by "the other side," meaning the New People's Army.

ComVal is part of Southern Mindanao (Region XI). It is a province of 11 towns and 235 barangays, and of mountain ranges, denuded areas now being reforested with plantation species like gmelina and mahogany, beach and inland-mountain resorts, waterfalls, cold and hot springs, caves, floral gardens, fruits and fauna.

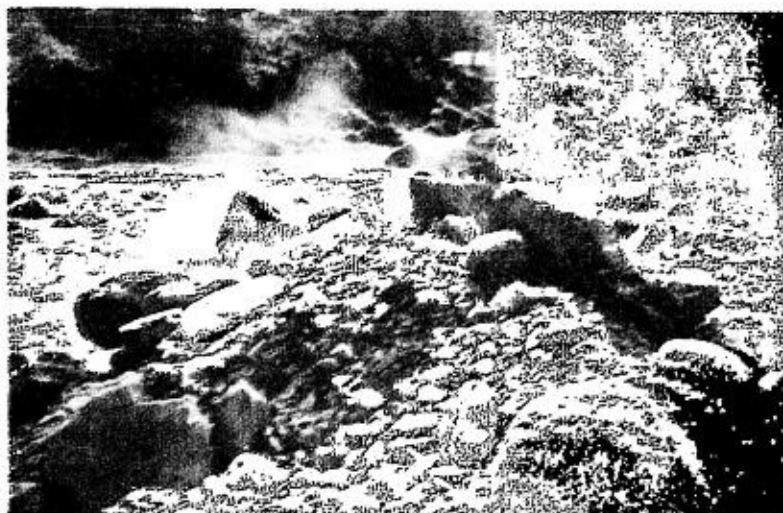
The majority of the people are Cebuano-speaking Davaoños, with an estimated 30 percent from Luzon. Moros, mostly traders, and tribal communities, like the Manobos, round off the rest of the ethno-linguistic groups.

The capital town of Nabunturan lies 87 kilometers north of Davao City, where SuperFerry 1 and 8 drop anchor regularly. My journey from Manila to Davao, with stopovers at Iloilo and General Santos City (and GenSan and Zamboanga on the way back) took two days and about seven hours, but I wasn't bored.

Ah, the joys of maritime travel (as compared to constricting air travel). I read, wrote my articles, engaged in people watching (there were many children on board) and took down notes. I also ate, had a cold beer or two, kept a lookout for dolphins, chatted with passengers and crew, listened to the animated conversations in Visayan, enjoyed the seascape, and, with my trusty automatic camera, took shots of the picturesque coastal areas.

Other SuperFerry passengers indulged themselves at the beauty parlor, sang along with the videoke (letting loose with an off-key version of "My Love Will See You Through"), let their hair down at the disco, or—horrors allowed their children to play those maddening video games.

In Davao City, my hosts, DENR XI officials Clarence L. Baguilat (from Baguio City) and Peter Celoy arranged for a vehicle to take us to Nabunturan. My tour guides were Amado C. Cenizan, ComVal environment officer (from Villasis, Pangasinan), and Remigio P. Acampado, protected areas superintendent (from Sulat, Eastern Samar). Then there was the young DENR driver Giovanni C. Bacaron, who answers to the unlikely nickname of "D'ghard" because he was a kind of bodyguard to his father, a judge since deceased.



STEAM rising from the Bukal River



SULFURIC mound growing through the years

The trip took less than two hours over well-paved roads, passing through Tagum City in Davao del Norte and a mountain highway overlooking the Agusan River Basin.

Ecotourism is still in a developing stage in ComVal but there are many sites worth a visit. Recommended activities include trekking, cave exploration, swimming, mountain biking, rappelling, and rock-wall climbing.

There are beach resorts in the southern towns of Mabini and Pantukan, and caves in Mawab and Monkayo. Mabini has a getaway island called Kopiat.

The province abounds in hot and cold spring resorts and falls in the inland-mountain areas, like Kapatagan in Laak; Tagamaco and Mainit Hot Springs in Maco; Aguacan, a popular cold-springs resort in Marasugan, which is the Baguio of the Davao provinces; Judilla in New Bataan; and Bukal Hot Springs and Toyuzu in Nabunturan.

There are spring-fed swimming pools and natural streams of water.

Flora species and fruit farms, like Sevillano and Tropifresh, are found in Mawab and Marasugan.

A favorite of the locals (because enjoyment of the

natural wonder is free of charge) is the Bukal Hot Springs in Nabunturan's Sitio Sarabon. It is actually a shallow, boulder-strewn river where the hot and cold spring waters from the mountains converge and where small picnic sheds have been built.

The steam rises from the portions of the river where the water is actually boiling, so if you want to bathe, you'd do well to choose the lukewarm areas. And tread carefully on the banks lest your feet get scalded.

At the Bukal Center, behind the nearby elementary school, is an ecological curiosity: Mt. Angelo, a sulfuric mound that is said to be growing through the years. It is not a grotto, but could it be another miracle from Mama Mary?

A few minutes away from the river is the well-manicured Toyuzu Inland Resort. The gatekeeper-manager is a rebel returnee, in fact a one-time commander, who bears a vague resemblance to the incarcerated Jinggoy Estrada.

The mountain resort has spring-fed swimming pools, cottages that families can rent, and cave-like tunnels where this traveler decided to experience a natural steam bath.

You should try it. You strip down to your trunks, sit down on the wooden plank, relax, close your eyes, and then feel the rivulets of sweat pour down your body. This is good for lumbago, arthritis and other medical conditions that, mercifully, I have not suffered from despite the advancing years.

You're not supposed to stay in the "sweat shop" for more than 15 minutes. But you can come back for more. In my case, I chose to take a refreshing dip in the pool.

The place to stay in Nabunturan is the ComVal Hotel, which faces a plaza, a playground and an outdoor barbecue restaurant that is a pleasant place in which to have a beer and some *pulutan* (bar chow) in the evening.

At night, in your room, after the rain showers, you are lulled to sleep by a symphony of fauna: the *eng-engteng* of the cicadas, the *kokak* of the frogs, the high-pitched song of the crickets, and the various sounds of the other small denizens of nature.

The mist descends from the mountains like a shroud from heaven. And you wake up to a scene approximating Baguio or Sagada, the outdoors still bathed in an evanescent mist that slowly dissolves by 7:30 a.m. as the sun begins to shine more brightly. In the afternoon and early evening, the rain showers resume.

Being in mist-laden Compostela Valley at year's end is tantamount to experiencing the poetry of the seasons.

The mist descends from the mountains like a shroud from heaven. And you think, being here is like reading the poetry of the seasons



THE COMVAL Hotel

Dive in, rev up

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The new dive shop is located at Store 301 at the Rockwell Power Plant in Makati City. Apart from offering a broad range of diving gear, it conducts scuba training, with five confined water sessions at the Rockwell Club swimming pool. A weekend open dive in Batangas completes the course.

Josephine Jimenez, president and founder of Eureka, is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is among the worldwide investment banking circle.

"I chose the name Eureka not only because it's catchy," she said when asked about the origin of her shop's name. "Actually, when Archimedes, the Greek scientist, discovered the principle of buoyancy, he shouted 'Eureka!' which means 'I found it!'"

Diving is all about buoyancy control. And with the beauty that lies in the Philippines seas, Eureka's mission/vision is to help boost tourism, Jimenez said.

Eureka also conducts dive tours mainly in Batangas, and scheduled tours to Tubbataha, Puerto Galera and Malapascua in Cebu. (The latter is a fairly new resort attraction.) A Galapagos dive tour is also in the offing.

Eureka is the exclusive distributor of Parkway Scuba of California, offering a broad range of scuba diving gear, quality wet suits, expanded fins, regulators, BC, and more. Cetacea, also of California, makes dive accessories that complement the Parkway line. Eureka supplies other dive shops with these products and accessories, whether retail or wholesale.

For more information, call Mike Oteyza at (632) 756-0170 (0916) 301-5625, fax to (632) 756-0149, e-mail jimenez@eurekadive.com or visit www.eurekadive.com.



CULTURE OF TOURISM

Officers of the Tourism Educators of Schools, Colleges and Universities freeze the moment with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. The women—from left, Cecilia Culson (University of Santo Tomas), Connie Torres (Cora Doloroso), Vicky Nanagas (College of the Holy Spirit), Dean Amy Santos (Lyceum), Norma Compuesto (La Consolacion Manila), Cecilia Clara (Centro Escolar University), Leah Mangohig (Trinity College), Dr. Zenaida Cruz (Polytechnic University of the Philippines) and Dr. Susan Alegoria (Columban College)—called on Gordon to discuss the inclusion of the culture of tourism in their schools' syllabuses.



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Milestones

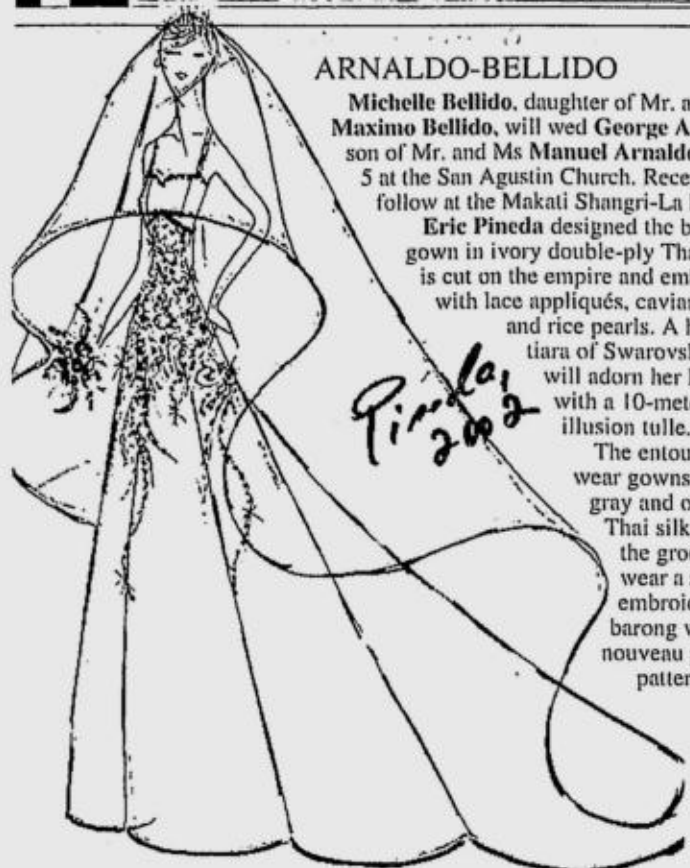
We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

ARNALDO-BELLIDO

Michelle Bellido, daughter of Mr. and Ms. Maximo Bellido, will wed George Arnaldo, son of Mr. and Ms. Manuel Arnaldo, on Jan. 5 at the San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory double-ply Thai silk. It is cut on the empire and embellished with lace appliques, caviar beads and rice pearls. A handmade tiara of Swarovski crystals will adorn her hair along with a 10-meter veil of illusion tulle.

The entourage will wear gowns in silver gray and old rose Thai silk, while the groom will wear a specially embroidered barong with an art nouveau pechera pattern.



YLANAN-VILLANUEVA

Harvey Cases Ylanan, son of the late Candido and Paulita Ylanan of Bogo, Cebu, will exchange "I dos" with Helen Tana Villanueva, daughter of Henry and Allen Villanueva of Kalibo, Aklan, on Jan. 12 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Kalibo, Aklan. Reception will follow at Terranova Garden, Kalibo, Aklan. The couple will wear an Armando Giron creation.



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FASHIONABLE DEBUTANTE

Jo Christine "Tin-Tin" Lim Napoles, daughter of entrepreneurs Jaime and Jannet Napoles, will celebrate her 18th birthday bash with a unique fashion show-inspired debut party on Jan. 11 at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Plaza Hotel. She is a BSC Marketing and Advertising freshman at Asia-Pacific College.

Raymond Villanueva will choreograph and direct, complete with a ramp where cotillion participants will sashay in high fashion evening numbers by designer Eddie Baddeo.

In keeping with the fashion show theme, Tin came up with a special invite à la model's set card photographed by Dominic James. Floral décor of the evening's venue will be executed by Tony Rodriguez while her cake by Henry Sison.

The debutante on her special night will wear a Baddeo amethyst strapless column gown in Thai silk touched beautifully with caviar beads and Swarovski crystal stones; hair and makeup by Eric Maningat, her escort is Michael Sanjay Chandumal.



MAYOR-DEL MUNDO

Pablo "Joji" D. Mayor Jr., son of Pablo M. Mayor Sr. and Rosalia F. Dancel, will wed Elma "May" B. del Mundo, daughter of Armando and Fe del Mundo, on Jan. 4 at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Project 4, QC. Reception will be at the Grand Ballroom, Celebrity Sports Club, Capitol Hills, QC. The bride will wear a beaded ivory satin and organza two piece off-shoulder ensemble. The satin tank bodice will be beaded. The back features satin-covered buttons. The gown has a basque waistline. A satin band will be the accent of the shirred organza skirt. An organza shawl with a beaded satin semi-cathedral train completes the ensemble designed by Edd Sy.

OLARTE-CUYA

Winston Felipe C. Olarte, son of Pepito and Roxani Olarte, and Beth Cuya, daughter of Rafael and Juana Cuya, will exchange marriage vows on Jan. 12 at the Archbishop Chapel, Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong City.



SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Edgardo and Aleli Cueto (nee Baum) of La Vista, QC, and Syosset, Long Island, New York, United States, will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary on Jan. 5. The ceremony will be held at the Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy Academy. Reception will follow at the North Ritz Club in Syosset, LI, New York.

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- Male/Female, preferably not more than 30 years old;
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- Computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

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- Male/Female, preferably not more than 30 years old; has skill in report writing;
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- Computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

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- Must have a pleasant personality and above average English communication skills.

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- Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses;

- Have at least 1 year working experience in the same capacity;
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BOOKKEEPERS

- College graduates with 12 units in Accounting;
- Have experience in restaurant setting.

MASTER COOKS

- Preferably male, at least 25 years old;
- Have formal or vocational training in cooking;
- Have 3-5 years working;
- Have knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS

- Male/Female, 18-25 years old;
- At least college level/vocational course graduates, 5'3" in height;
- Must have a pleasant personality and good English communication skills.

WAITERS/BUSBOYS/RIDERS/PARKING ATTENDANTS

- Male, must have reached at least 2nd year college/vocational courses, 5'6" in height with good physique, pleasant personality and good communication skills;
- Preferably not more than 25 years old;
- For Riders, must have professional driver's license (restriction codes 1 & 2).

KITCHEN HELPERS

- Male, 18 to 25 years old;
- At least college level/vocational course;
- Must have a pleasant personality;
- Preferably with related work experiences.

JANITORS/DISHWASHERS

- Male, 18 to 27 years old;
- At least college level/vocational course;
- Must have a pleasant personality.

You may submit/mail your resumé with 2x2 photo and transcript of records at the branch nearest you or where you prefer to work, or at any of our Recruitment Centers:

Human Resources Department
MAX'S TRAINING CENTER
 Near corner Roxas Blvd. and
 A. Guarra St., Parañaque City

Human Resources Department
MAX'S GREENBELT BRANCH
 Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center
 Makati City

Human Resources Department
 Max's Quezon City Group
 3rd Floor, 89 FSS Building,
 Scout Castor St., Rocas Ave.,
 Quezon City



Take the challenge of joining a growing multinational real estate company as it strives to be at the forefront of property development and management.

We are actively seeking for high-caliber individuals from reputable universities who have the drive and skills to deliver results in a fast-paced environment.

BUILDING OPERATIONS MANAGER (BOM)

- Will be responsible for the technical operations of all Philamlife buildings nationwide, including the 46-storey Philamlife Tower
- Must have a strong Chief Engineer's background preferably in a 5-star hotel industry
- Preferably P.M.E. or P.E.E.
- With at least 5-7 years engineering experience in high rise building
- With strong background in Fire Life Safety Systems and Computerized Energy Management Systems
- Experience in Implementing Preventive Maintenance Program

ADMIN ASSISTANT (AA)

- A graduate of any 4-year business related course with high scholastic records
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality
- Highly organized and systematic
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint

RECEPTIONIST (R)

- With very pleasing personality
- At least 5'4" in height
- At least 3rd year college
- Female

DOORMAN (D)

- With pleasing personality
- At least 5'4" in height
- At least high school graduate

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent 2 x 2 photo. Pls. affix the job code on the envelope.
 The Recruitment Officer; Philam Properties Corp., 9th Floor Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Where
you
find
the
best.



VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
 Block 23 Phase IV, Rosario, Cavite

If you're a dynamic, hardworking individual and possess the qualifications we are looking for, then apply now... and be part of one of the largest wood manufacturing companies in Asia.

Assistant Manager for Training and Recruitment

- Male/Female
- Must be 35 years old and above
- Graduate of Management or Psychology preferably with Masters Degree in Industrial Relations
- With at least (3) three years of experience in all phases of Human Resource Management and Training, preferably exposed in manufacturing company with over 1,000 employees is an advantage

Assistant Supervisors (for production and maintenance)

- Male/Female at least 20-30 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months related supervisory work experience
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- With knowledge in machine operation for wooden product

Data Encoder

- Male/Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or any computer related course
- With experience in office work and has numerical ability
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

PRODUCTION BASED

Forklift Operator (urgent hiring)

- At least High School, Vocational or College Level
- Must be Male 20-27 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

Mechanic

- Male 20-27 years old
- Must be Vocational or College Graduate (Automotive)
- With at least 6 months experience as mechanic
- Knowledge in machine trouble shooting
- Familiar with compressors

Electrician

- Male 20-27 years old
- Vocational or College Graduate (I.T./Electrical Course)
- At least 6 months experience as electrician
- Knowledge in AVR control
- Can read electrical diagram symbol

Facility Staff

- Male between 20-27 years old
- At least high school graduate or college level
- With knowledge and skills in carpentry, plumbing, planning and scheduling
- Physically well built and able body
- With good moral character

Production Operator

- Male/Female between 18-27 years old
- At least high school graduate or college level
- Must be 5'3" (Female) 5'2" (Male)
- Flexible and with good moral character
- Preferably residing with in Cavite area
- Physically well built and able body

You can mail or hand-carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries, call Telephone No. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Christian or Ahmee or you can email your resumé at hrd_scad@yahoo.com

Thermal Solutions, Inc. a newly established Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Sales and Service Company specializing in Industrial Air-conditioning Equipment is in need of fresh graduates of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering from reputable Colleges and Universities, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Technology and Industrial Electricity graduates from high caliber Technical Schools.

Applicants must have high grades in college (below average grades need not apply). Possess good working attitude, highly motivated and willing to learn, be trained and develop oneself for a successful career in Air-conditioning Sales and Service sector.

We do not entertain walk-in applicants, application shall be made thru resumé. Please submit together with graduation results and grades and any other information you may feel is useful. Please send application with 2 x 2 ID picture in sealed envelope marked Private and Confidential and addressed to the General Manager.

Thermal Solutions, Inc.
 1006 Page 1 Bldg. 1215 Acacia Street
 Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
 Muntinlupa City

We are a ground handling and logistics company.
We are looking for qualified personnel for the positions listed below.
Central and Northern Luzon residents are preferred.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Candidates must be Certified Public Accountants; with at least 5 years experience. Must be computer-literate.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 6 years experience in Ground Support Equipment preventive maintenance, inspection and repair; and must have a valid Driver's License.

MECHANIC

Candidates must be graduates of a Technical/Vocational course; with at least 5 years experience in Ground Support Equipment preventive maintenance, inspection and repair, and must have a Driver's License.

RAMP PERSONNEL

Candidates must be High School graduates preferably with at least two years of Vocational education; with at least 2 years experience in aircraft ramp handling; and must have a valid Driver's License.

WAREHOUSEMAN

Candidates must have completed at least two years of High School or Vocational education; with at least 5 years experience in warehouse operations and air cargo handling.

CARGO SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 8 years experience in air cargo handling and warehouse operations management. Must be computer literate.

RAMP SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 6 years experience in aircraft ramp handling and a valid Driver's License.

NON-TECHNICAL MECHANIC

Candidates must be High School graduates preferably with at least two years of Vocational education; with at least 2 years experience in general equipment maintenance, inspection and repair; and must have a valid Driver's License.

DOCUMENTATION CLERK

Candidates must have a College degree. Previous experience in customs clearance documentation is preferable. Must be computer literate.

FORKLIFT OPERATOR

Candidates must be licensed forklift operator with at least 5 years experience in forklift operations.

All candidates must have good communication and interpersonal skills.

Competitive compensation packages and training programs await successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumés with 2 recent ID photos on or before January 4, 2002 to:

Box KA-012-01 TD
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila

Please include copies of certificates and licenses where applicable.

URGENT HIRING!!!

The leading manufacturer of pharmaceutical products in the Philippines is in need of qualified personnel for its 2002 expansion.

PHARMACIST licensed or not
CHEMIST
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST
PRODUCTION LINE WORKERS
CHEMICAL ENGINEERS
MICROBIOLOGIST
MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S
COMPOUNDER

Interested applicants must apply in person with their credentials on January 4, 2002 at 63 Toro Hills, Congressional Ave., Quezon City.

For inquiries please call 922-96-10 to 11. Look for Mark.

Orientation to Qualified Applicants will start on January 7, 2002.



TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, BEST IN SERVICE AND DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD, IS IN SEARCH OF TOP CALIBER TEAM MEMBERS TO FILL IN THE JOB VACANCIES!!!

1. MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

- male/female, not more than 27 years old
- graduate of any four-year course
- willing to do field works
- with pleasing personality

2. SERVICE ADVISOR

- male, not more than 28 years old
- preferably Mechanical Engineering graduate
- computer literate
- must know how to drive

Please bring your resumé and 2x2 picture:

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS

124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bo. Ugong Pasig
Tel. Nos. 671-98-54 to 64

NOTE: Apply Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
Previous applicant need not apply.

URGENT ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications

- ☐ Accounting Graduate
- ☐ At least 2 years experience in general accounting
- ☐ Computer literate, proficient in EXCEL
- ☐ Can work independently
- ☐ Willing to do fieldwork
- ☐ Preferably single, living in Parañaque, Muntinlupa or Las Piñas area
- ☐ Salary commensurate to experience.

Send your resumé to:

BOX MK-77
c/o Classified Ads Dept.
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City
or Fax to (632) 825-9759

BEYOND THE LINE ADVERTISING • PROMOTIONS • PUBLIC RELATIONS • SALES SUPPORT



Creative Integrated Marketing Communications
(CIMC) Agency of Choice!!!

GRAPHICS ARTIST

Someone who sees life as one big art. Possible for either full-time or part-time arrangement.

Qualifications:

Not over 27 yrs. old, male or female,
Proficient in the following computer programs such as adobe photoshop, illustrator, page maker, corel draw & 3D.
With freehand talent.
Hardworker, trustworthy, team player.
Willing to grow with the company.

Successful applicant can look forward to an above industry compensation and benefit package.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their resumes with 2x2 size color photo and supporting documents (transcript &/or employment records) to:

HR and ADMIN. HEAD
Executive Decisions
3rd Floor Doha Segunda Building, 113 Karmuning Road, Quezon City
Trunk Lines: 413-6436/37 • 448-5396/98 • 925-4761

* Those with attitude problems need not to apply.



A QS 9000 Certified Japanese export manufacturing company of aluminum wheel is in need of the following:

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- ☒ Male, 25 to 27 years old
- ☒ Licensed Electrical Engineer
- ☒ With at least 2 years experience on the same field
- ☒ Must be capable in doing preventive maintenance for genset, aircon, forklift, LPG and electrical equipment
- ☒ Computer literate and can work with minimum supervision

COMPANY NURSE

- ☒ Male or female, 24 to 30 years old
- ☒ P.R.C. License - Registered Nurse
- ☒ With at least one (1) year experience in a manufacturing company
- ☒ Computer literate and willing to render overtime
- ☒ Knowledgeable in processing/filing documents to government/medical agencies

Interested party are advised to apply in person with their updated resumé, 2x2 photo, and transcript of records to:

ENKEI PHILIPPINES, INC.
104 Industry Drive, Carmelray Industrial Park
Cantubang, Calamba, Laguna
Tels. (049) 549-0161 to 62
or
E-mail us at maylen.garcia@enkei.com.ph



SYKES™ Sykes Asia, Inc. is a global leader in providing customer support services to technology-enabled companies. These services are delivered through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and web.

Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, Sykes has over 14,000 employees and operates 39 customer support centers, four e-commerce fulfillment centers, and 17 branch offices throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

MANDARIN AND CANTONESE LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS

Providing world-class customer service to our partners from the Asia Pacific Region, the Consultant shall provide language (Mandarin/Cantonese) support to its clients.

Qualified applicants must have excellent written and spoken Mandarin/Cantonese language skills, working knowledge with the different Operating Systems (Windows 98/2000, NT, etc.), familiarity with Mac and the different Microsoft Applications and Internet. Also, Applicants should have excellent customer service orientation. This consultancy position is for a fixed-term contract with a consultancy rate of Php 30,000.00.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé via e-mail to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com or mail it to 4F SMPC Bldg., St. Francis Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.



SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILS. CORPORATION
is in need of the following:

MIS MANAGER

Male or female, not more than 35 years old
Graduate of Computer Science or any I.T. related course
Has at least 5 years minimum related experience in network management and MIS processes
Knowledge in SAP/R3
Excellent verbal and written communication skills

SALES BRANCH MANAGER

Male or female, not more than 35 years old
Graduate of any business related course
Computer literate with excellent verbal and written communication skills
With 3 years minimum experience in sales and marketing of consumer electronics products
A Resident of Davao

TELECOMS MANAGER

Male or female, not more than 35 years old
Graduate of any Engineering course
With 3 years minimum experience in telecoms preferably has worked for reputable telecommunication companies
Computer literate with good communication skills

TELECOMS ASSISTANT

Male or female, not more than 24 years old
Graduate of any Engineering or Business Administration course
preferably fresh graduates
Computer literate with good communication skills

PLEASE SEND RESUMÉ AS BODY OF THE E-MAIL TO:

THE HRD DEPARTMENT
E-mail address: phoebe@samsung.co.kr

FASHION TEACHERS NEEDED

An International Fashion School in Manila requires teachers with expertise in the following areas:

FASHION MARKETING
RETAIL BUYING
FASHION DRAPING
PATTERN MAKING
INDUSTRIAL SEWING

Applicants must possess relevant post-secondary education and work experience.

Fax resumé and cover letter to:
521-2593

only qualified applicants will be considered

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

USAID-funded health logistics project requires six (6) energetic, conscientious individuals to participate as interviewers/data collectors for a 4-week health logistics system assessment to be conducted on 21 January to 15 February 2002.

Assignment will include:

- One (1) week assessment orientation training near Manila
- Three (3) weeks data collection in urban and rural health facilities in six regions

Region I	Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union
Region III	Bataan, Pampanga and Zambales
Region IV	Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro and Romblon
Region VI	Aklan, Capiz and Iloilo
Region VII	Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor
Region XI	Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and South Cotabato

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Experience in field surveys
- Willingness to commit to a 4-week assignment
- Physical ability to travel in both urban and potentially difficult rural settings
- Familiarity with the areas (an advantage)

Requirements:

- Resumé (highlighting relevant experience)
- NBI or Police Clearance
- Recent 2 x 2 photo

Successful candidates will receive a reasonable daily consulting fee, per diem and travel allowances.

Please submit complete requirements to **Mr. JUN AMABLE** or **Ms. KATE MALSI** of **John Snow, Inc., 2nd Floor, Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila.** Deadline of submission is on **8 January 2002.**

The future is e-commerce

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) is a leading enabler of global merchandise trade. We develop and operate independent net marketplaces, and offer software solutions that facilitate cross-border transactions in public and private environments. Our cataloging software and content management infrastructure support these offerings, while our trade magazines remain a key complementary component of our total solution. We are currently looking for:

Marketing Manager

You will conceptualize and execute B2B marketing and communication programs for an international audience. The position requires at least 5 years experience in copywriting, direct marketing, sales and promotions. The ability to work effectively with teams of diverse nationalities is required.

The successful candidate must have a university degree and first class English language skills. Those who enjoy working in a multi-cultural setting will have a definite advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a challenging and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidates. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources



**ASIAN
TERMINALS
INCORPORATED**
www.asianterminals.com.ph

ATI is a publicly listed port operator and commercial logistics provider affiliated with P&O Australia Ltd. And Mitsui & Company of Japan.

Career opportunity for I.T. Practitioners:

SYSTEMS ANALYST PROGRAMMERS

- College graduate of any computer related course;
- At least one year experience in Visual Basic Programming;
- Knowledge on the following would be an advantage: MS SQL, Windows NT, Crystal Report, and Caché.

If you're up to the real challenge in one of the fastest growing-service sectors, send your application letter, resumé with photo and transcript of records on or before January 4, 2002 to:

The Human Resources Department
Asian Terminals, Incorporated
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
e-mail: JConer@asianterminals.com.ph



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE



Philippines-Australia
Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao Project
(PA - BEAM)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All positions are contractual, i.e. co-terminous with project life.
- Applicants should be willing to relocate to Davao City (where the project office will be located) at no extra cost to the Project.
- Prospective hires should be willing to travel to project sites within Regions XI, XII and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).
- Issuance of Contract of Employment is bi-annual renewal of which is subject to the semestral evaluation of job performance.
- Letter of Intent should be forwarded not later than 21 December, 2001 to:

TERESITA D. FELIPE
Executive Director
DepEd - EDPITAF
2/F Dorm D, PSC-NAS Complex
Meralco Avenue
Pasig City

LIST OF VACANCIES (in compliance with RA 7041)

2 Project Dev't. Officer IV

SG: 22; Bachelor's degree holder • Minimum of five (5) years exposure in implementing foreign-assisted projects • Must have held a senior management position for the last five (5) years • Experience in managing and facilitating training, conferences and seminars • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Familiarity in government accounting rules and procedures • Has good communication skills, written and oral; and Completion of relevant trainings (120 hours)

2 Project Dev't. Officer III

SG18; Bachelor's degree holder • Minimum of five (5) years exposure in implementing foreign-assisted projects • Must have held a junior management position for the last five (5) years • Good working knowledge in government accounting rules and procedures • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Experience in managing and facilitating trainings, conferences and seminars • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Has good communication skills, written and oral; Completion of relevant trainings (120 hours)

1 Project Dev't. Officer II

SG: 15; Bachelor's degree holder • Minimum of five (5) years exposure in implementing foreign-assisted projects • Experience in facilitating training, conferences and seminars • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Familiarity in government accounting rules and procedures • Has good communication skills, written and oral; Completion of relevant trainings (120 hours)

1 Project Dev't. Officer I

SSG: 11; Bachelor's degree holder • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Experience in facilitating trainings, conferences and seminars • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Has good communication skills, written and oral.

1 Computer Operator III

SG: 12; Completion of at least two years college studies • Preferably with skills proficiency certification on the application and maintenance or relevant computer softwares as issued by the CSC • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Has good communication skills, written and oral.

1 Driver II

SG: 3; At least high school graduate • Minimum of five (5) years driving experience • With professional driver's license • With 20-20 vision • Can undertake minor mechanical repairs of the vehicle.

1 Utility Worker II

SG: 3; At least high school graduate • Must know how to operate office machines.



Kamameshi Marketing Corporation

Is in need of personnel for the following positions:

- 1 EXECUTIVE ASST. for OPERATIONS
- 2 OUTLET SUPERVISORS
- 3 WAITERS
- 4 CASHIERS with knowledge on POS System
- 5 SUSHIMEN with at least 5 years experience
- 6 DRIVER/VALLLET PARKERS with Professional Driver's License
- 7 PURCHASING ASSISTANTS computer literate

For positions 1 and 2 - College graduate HRM or Marketing degree

Interested applicants must submit personally their resumé with 2x2 picture at 5787 Zobel Roxas Street, Makati City. Telephone calls shall not be entertained.



GLOBALSOFT
Research, Inc.

Globalsoft Research, Inc. is a software development and IT services firm. We help clients save time and effort with our accounting and inventory software. We have an opening for:

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

The hired candidate shall be part of a team that would design and develop new versions of Globalsoft Accounting Software. He or she shall also perform software customizations and provide implementation support to clients.

We are looking for graduates of Computer Science or Accountancy. The candidate must be quick learner, quality oriented and programming enthusiast.

Please submit your resume, transcript of records and recent photo to:

GLOBALSOFT RESEARCH, INC.

1903B West Tower, Phil. Stock Exch., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

A well established first class retail company is in need of top caliber individuals to apply as

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Code: R-HR

- ✓ Female, at least 26 years old
- ✓ Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
- ✓ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources
- ✓ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
- ✓ Must have the potential work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
- ✓ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
- ✓ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
- ✓ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

P.O. BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, Megamall
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE USE POSITION CODE

A Pharmaceutical Company is in search for an:

ACCOUNTANT

- Male/female, not more than 28 years old
- Good communication skills (oral and written)
- Graduate of B.S. Accounting
- Knowledge in Computer
- Preferably with experience in a Pharmaceuticals Company

This is an immediate requirement; all interested applicants are requested to send their resumé, copy of transcript of records, with 2x2 picture to:

Unit 902-A West Tower
Tekite Bldg. PSE Ctr.
Exchange Road, Ortigas
Pasig City

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MEDTRONIX
Medical Supplies & Equipment

We Offer:

- **Dynamic Team**
- **Opportunity to Grow**

A fast Growing company is in need of people to fill in the following positions:

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Preferably registered Nurse or any related Medical course
- At least one year experience in selling preferably in Medical Supplies/Disposable
- Preferably female, single 22-30 years old
- Computer literate
- Pleasing personality with written communication skills
- Friendly & able to relate well with customers

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT/OFFICE CLERK

- Accounting graduate
- Computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel & Power point)
- At least one year working experience
- Female, single, 21-30 years old

Interested applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé with 2x2 picture to:



MEDTRONIX Medical Supplies & Equipment
Suite 407 Pasda Mansion,
#77 Panay Avenue, corner Timog, Quezon City
medtronix@philonline.com

Note: Applicants should come in proper business attire on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for interview.

We Urgently Need Highly-Skilled Individuals for the following positions:

Technical Support Engineer Sales Executive

- Male or female with a computer-related degree from a reputable college or university
- In-depth knowledge on PC hardware, Windows OS and graphics/video applications
- Preferably with background in PC networking (LAN)

PC-based Video Editor

- Male or female with extensive experience in PC-based non-linear video editing
- Preferably with background in PC networking (LAN)

Café Manager

- Male or female with experience in restaurant/cafe management
- Preferably with background in computer operation

Cook

- At least 2 years working experience in a restaurant

Due to the urgency, please e-mail your resumé to hason@pacific.net.ph, or apply in person (bring 2x2 photo, resumé and other credentials) at address: Unit 701 Global Tower Bldg., Gen. Mascara St. corner Capt. M. Reyes Sts., Bangkal, Makati City.

SYKESSM

With 44 call centers worldwide, Sykes is a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies. From its Manila Call center, Sykes currently supports 15 clients in 6 languages, handling the transactions throughout Asia, Europe and the USA.

Customer Service Manager (CSM)

- ⇒ Bachelor's degree in Consumer Affairs, Business Administration or Communications
- ⇒ Previous Product and Client responsibility, with a minimum of 3 years experience in a call center management role in a customer service or support function
- ⇒ Effective written and verbal communication skills
- ⇒ Experience in working with people on different levels, with proven excellent customer service skills
- ⇒ Experience in negotiation and diplomacy
- ⇒ Experience in budgeting and adept in analyzing statistical information

Technical Support Engineers - Asian Languages (TSE - Asian Lang)

- ⇒ College graduate of any 4 or 5 years course
- ⇒ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- ⇒ Has working knowledge on the internet and other computer applications
- ⇒ Fluent in any of the following languages:
 - Mandarin
 - Korean
 - Japanese

Technical Support Engineers (English TSE)

- ⇒ College graduate of any 4 or 5 years course
- ⇒ Basic understanding of computer architecture and dial-up connections
- ⇒ Working knowledge on Windows platform, Microsoft applications and the Internet
- ⇒ Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- ⇒ Excellent verbal and written English communication skills

JRun Technical Support Engineers (JR TSE)

- ⇒ Adept in JAVA Programming and is capable of providing general JRun installation and configuration assistance and must have a familiarity with HTTP specifications
- ⇒ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- ⇒ Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, JSP, Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- ⇒ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- ⇒ Extensive experience in HTML, Servlet programming, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

ColdFusion Technical Support Engineers (CF TSE)

- ⇒ Experience with ColdFusion or ColdFusion Studio
- ⇒ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- ⇒ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- ⇒ Extensive experience in HTML, web servers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- ⇒ Basic knowledge of RDBMS and JavaScript

Macromedia Technical Support Engineers (MTSE)

- ⇒ Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product (Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, Authorware, Director, Freehand, UltraDev)
- ⇒ Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, Javascript, JSP, Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- ⇒ Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows, Macintosh or Unix
- ⇒ Extensive experience in HTML, web servers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- ⇒ Fluency in written and spoken English
- ⇒ Proven skills in business willing and phone handling
- ⇒ Strong customer service orientation, analytical, results-oriented and a team player
- ⇒ Willingness to work on a shifting schedule is essential

Interested applicants may submit their updated CV's with a photocopy of their Transcript of Records to:

SYKES ASIA, INC.
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
4th Flr. San Miguel Properties Center,
St. Francis Ave., Ortigas Center,
Mandaluyong City
Fax: +632-910-1559
email: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
http://www.sykes.com

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best
jobs
are
in

JOBMarket
ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com



MEDICard PHILS INC.

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SUNDAY

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

INQUIRER

December 30, 2001

Volume 5 No. 43

PINOY'S EYE VIEW

Images of 2001

Features

Essay

The Potent Noon *by The SIM Staff*

We glance at the faces of the year just past, not so much to sing yet another ode to the resilience of the Filipino people, but with the understanding that the tumultuous 2001 was a truly important chapter in our evolution as a people

3

Regulars

Letters	2
Poetry <i>Arnel S. Vitor</i>	5
Poetry <i>Gary C. Devilles; Dindo Perez; Mark Anthony Angeles</i>	7
Pinoy Nga! <i>Rizal Day by Jess Abrera</i>	15
This Week	16

MANILA BANKERS AD

I am writing this letter to relate my personal experience with The Manila Bankers Life, whose ads on their Prime Care Cash Plan appear now and then in your magazine.

Since 1997, I have sent about six applications to the Manila Bankers Life for my inclusion in their Prime Care Cash Plan, one of which was hand-carried by my son. None of these applications were answered. I tried following up my application by phone and the answer given was that my application was being processed. To add insult to injury, I still receive by mail every now and then their brochures on the Plan. At the first time I applied, I was 69 years old and qualified in all other respects, as stated in their ad.

It is apparent that Manila Bankers Life is not being true to its advertisement, and therefore can be accused of false advertising. I surmise that the inclusion of the age group of 70 to 75 years was intended solely to make the Plan more attractive to the general public but in reality, they have no intention of insuring any person within that age group.

I earnestly hope that this letter be published so that Manila Bankers Life will be forced to comply with their advertisement to the letter or change their advertisement so that the public may not be misled.

AUGUSTO V. REYES
4318 Rosemallow St., Sun Valley
Parañaque City

(We forwarded Mr. Reyes' letter to the Manila Bankers office so the issues may be addressed, and we received the following reply.—Ed)

REPLY FROM MANILA BANKERS

This refers to the letter-email of Mr. Augusto V. Reyes sent to your office on November 19, 2001 on the PrimeCARE Cash Plan of Manila Bankers Life Insurance Corporation.

It was alleged that he has sent six PrimeCARE applications and that our inclusion of age group 70 to 75 was only to make the plan more attractive to the public, and that we have no intention of insuring such age group.

Please be informed of the following:

1. The PrimeCARE Cash Plan was duly approved by the Insurance Commission, the government agency in charge of the enforcement of all laws relating to insurance and has supervision over insurance companies. The acceptance age of the PrimeCARE is from 50 to 75 years and coverage is up to 80 years old. Corresponding rates were reviewed by the Insurance Commission based on the actuarial assumptions submitted. Even the policy provisions were duly approved by the commission, word for word.

2. Mr. Reyes has sent to us an enrollment form, whereupon we issued a PrimeCARE Cash Plan policy in his name on August 20, 1996. Up to present date, no payment was made for PCP-001918-2. Thus, his policy has never been activated.

3. It is not true that we ignore applications that are being sent to us. The PrimeCARE Cash Plan is being sold via direct marketing using print ads and direct mail. Therefore, all applications are being attended to once received.

4. Once we have issued a policy, we follow it up (if unpaid on the designated Policy Date), with three reminder letters.

5. The PrimeCARE Cash Plan is on a GUARANTEED acceptance basis. No medical exam is required, not even medical or health questions.

6. The Sunday INQUIRER Magazine is one of our media in this direct marketing of our products. We do not have agents to market this particular product; instead, our clients cut out the enrollment form and send it to us by fax, by mail or personally. If you need more clarifications, please feel free to call us at 812-4406, 816-0123 or you may get in touch directly with the Actuarial Division of the Insurance Commission.

ROSE MARIE T. EVANGELISTA
Senior Assistant Vice President
Direct Marketing
Manila Bankers Life Insurance Corporation



Cover Story page 3

The Cover Image It was truly the year of the Filipino people. SIM remembers the pivotal moments of 2001 through the vision of our top photojournalists. Photograph by Mike Alqinto

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We have been a nation of doomsayers for a long time. In the quiet of the silence of the Filipino people, we have been a nation of doomsayers for a long time. We have been a nation of doomsayers for a long time.

The Potent Noon

IN RETROSPECT, the year seemed almost biblical in its scope, coming on the heels of doomsayers pronouncing 2001 as the real first year of the new millennium. After a relatively uneventful 2000, we awoke to what would turn out to be a year of both turmoil and triumph. People took to the streets to oust the sitting President, just for starters—and Joseph Estrada's supporters would later do the same in an attempt to take power back. In an ordeal unlike those of the vagabond heroes he played in movies, Estrada fumed as he was brought before a court of law to be tried for corruption. Meanwhile, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo brought her own brand of leadership to the Palace, moving through the year with stories about paper boats and a little bit of history in her wake as a curious and uncertain nation looked on. Yet in many ways, our lives continued as usual. Typhoons brought death and destruction while Mindanao continued to be torn apart by war and banditry. Just when you thought it was back to business as usual, a bevy of bizarre investigations drew both laughter and outrage, bringing us the colorful Rosebud, the beleaguered Victor Corpus, the unusual Ador Mawanay and the walking three-ring circus that is Philip Medel. Tragedy remained ever present. Fire choked a hotel full of religious delegates, the country lost an icon when Nida Blanca was killed, and game shows took over TV land.

The unimaginable terrorist attacks in New York City brought us closer to the rest of the world but also plunged us into a new era of fear about the very way we lived our lives. All of a sudden, no one was safe. All this time, the economy plodded on, patching its wounds, and the government began receiving American aid in search of a final answer to the Abu Sayyaf problem. In the following pages, **SIM** presents the lasting images of the past year as seen through the visions of top photojournalists. We remember these events not so much to sing yet another ode to the resilience of the Filipino people, but perhaps with the understanding that the tumultuous year just past was a truly important chapter in our evolution as a people. Perhaps the past year was a time that was, in the words of the poet Carlos Angeles, "conjured in the potent noon" of our history. It was the year that, in one way or another, truly changed all of our lives.

Ruel S. De Vera

January 17: A million came against Erap. In an event skeptics thought could never happen again, People Power 2 galvanized the normally passive middle-class to take to the streets and press for Joseph Estrada's resignation.

MIKE ALQUINTO



January 20: Goodbye, for now. Ousted President Joseph Estrada with children Jinggoy and Jackie wave goodbye to supporters as they leave Malacañang on board a barge. It was a sad but fitting exit for the man who was voted into office with the biggest mandate in Philippine election history – and was forced to leave with as much certainty. **VAL HANDUMON**



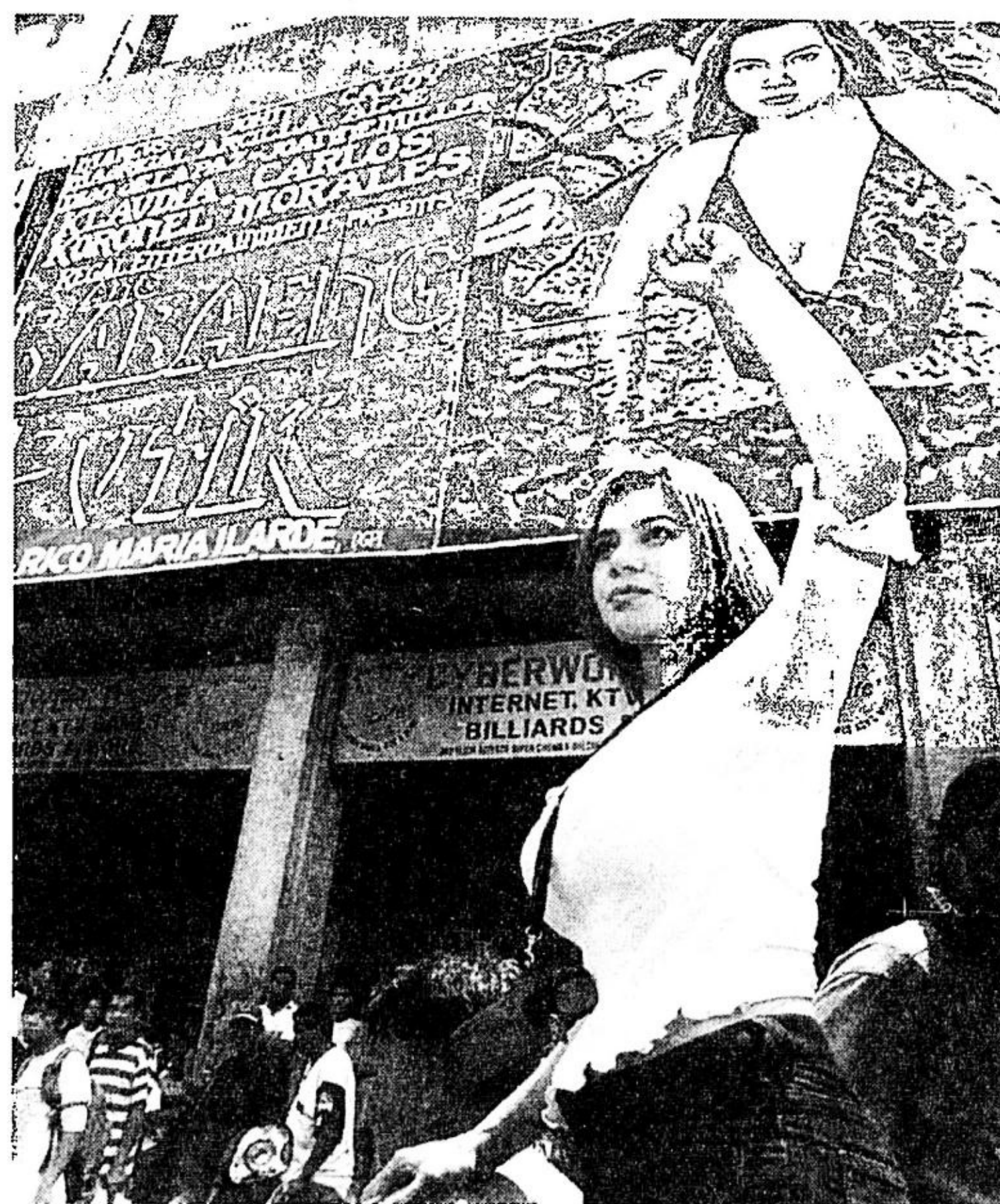


January 21: Gloria in excelsis. On the 15th anniversary of the February 1986 revolt, newly installed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo invoked the legacy of People Power. **EDWIN BACASMAS**

February 12: Raised fist for a fallen comrade. Friends and relatives carry the remains of assassinated labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman to his final resting place. **DENNIS SABANGAN**



March 7: Megastar courts the mega vote. Actress Sharon Cuneta hit the campaign trail for husband Kiko Pangilinan and his People Power Coalition. Pangilinan's consequent election as senator confirmed that, Erap notwithstanding, Pinoys are still a star-struck lot. **JOAN BONDOC**



March 26: Putting up a bold front. Actress Klaudia Koronel raises a clenched fist to protest Malacañang's banning of the movie "Live Show" in spite of an "R" rating from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB). **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**

Hinayang

May sandaling tulad nitong
Masidhi ang gunita
Sapagkat nanunurot wari
Ang lipos katahimikan
At ang pag-iisa'y tila pangungumpisal;
Kasama mo sana
Siya, ang bugtong na pinakaasam
Na kapiling nang pisikal,
Ngunit wala, hangin ang humahaplos
Sa iyong harapan; dahil kanina
Ang ibig mong sabihi'y
Hindi mo nabigkas
At, kapwa naunahan ng takot,
Ang hindi dapat ang agad na nausal.
Bakit nga ba parang lagi'y
Kay hiraip maiparating
Ang pinakamatimyas na damdamin?
Yaong emosyong magagaspang,
Tila lihang dumadagil sa balat,
Ang hindi naman sinasadya'y
Kay daling naipaparamdam?
Ngayon tuloy
Ay kapwa saklot ng hinayang
Na dapat sana'y nagdiriwang
Nang totohanan sa pagdadaup-palad;
Heto't nangangalatak ang kagalakang
Di mahawakan ng kamay.

Arnel S. Vitor



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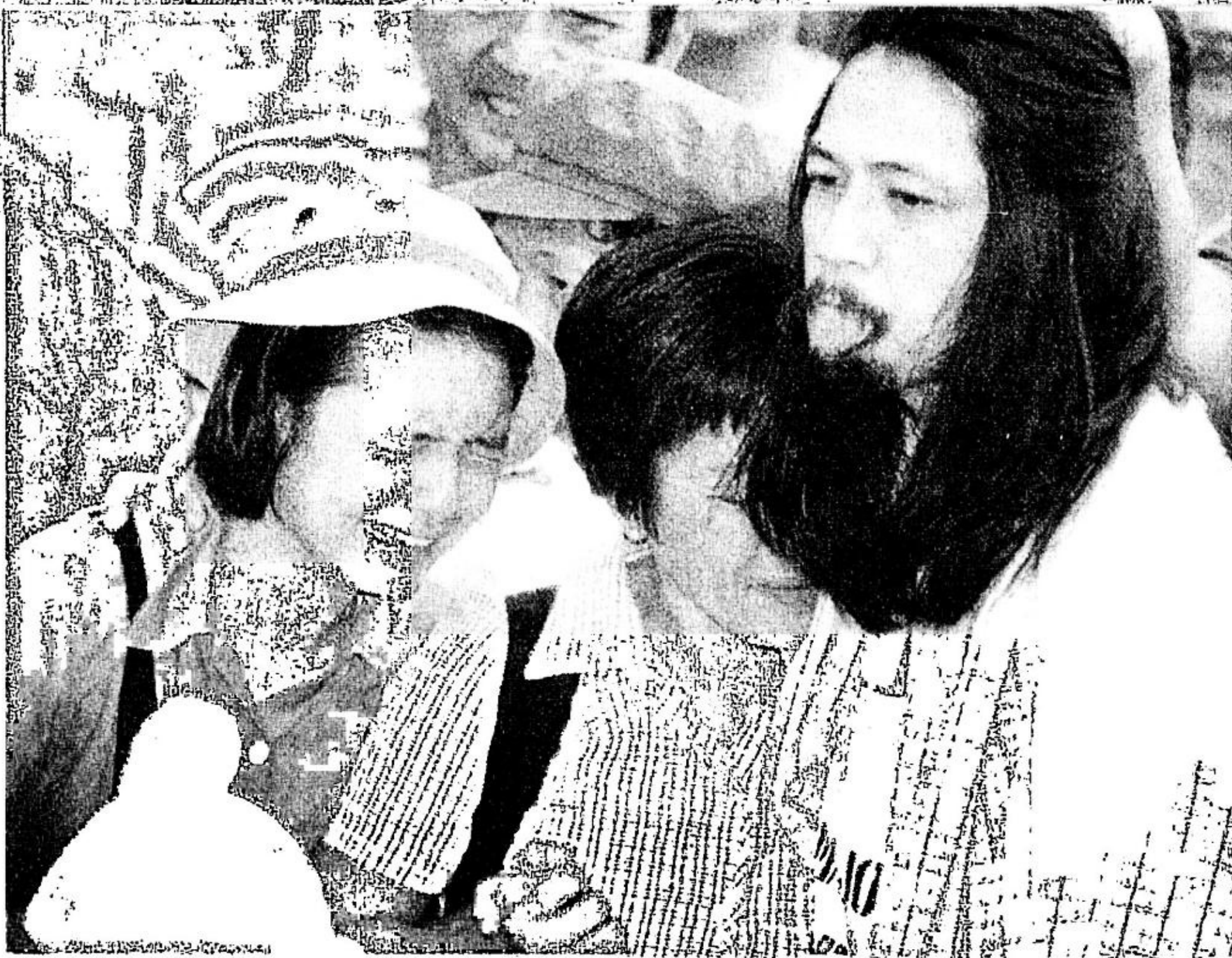
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April 6: Home at last! A tearful Noelle Jenina rushes into the arms of her father, Army Major Noel Buan, while her mother Cielo Buan savors her husband's release from the NPA's Melito Glor Command after 21 months of being held hostage. The much anticipated release was, however, marred by the death of another NPA hostage, Chief Inspector Abelardo Martin, who bled to death after being hit by a stray bullet in an alleged encounter between rebel and government troops in Quezon earlier.

EDWIN BACASMAS



April 25: On the spot. "I did not think this would happen to me," groused ousted President Joseph Estrada when he was arrested April 25 on charges of economic plunder. President Arroyo hailed the arrest of the former head of state—the first in the country—as "a historic moment," while Estrada allies decried the TV shots of the 64-year-old former actor being fingerprinted as "humiliating." Despite appeals from defense lawyers, Malacanang ruled out house arrest for Estrada, saying this was "technically not an option."

VAL HANDUMON



April 27: All dressed down and nowhere to go. Inside the three- by four-meter maximum security cell at the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force quarters in Camp Crame, former President Joseph Estrada tries on a shirt and his much reduced circumstances for size. His son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, who is facing similar charges of plunder, glumly looks on. Father and son were later transferred to the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City, from where they—and a significant number of security escorts—are regularly shuttled to the anti-graft court for hearings.

AP PHOTO



May 1: Standoff. Estrada supporters try to overrun police barricades on their way to Malacañang from the Edsa Shrine where they had grouped since the Estrada arrest. Egged on by senators identified with Estrada's Pwersa ng Masa party, the throng marched towards the country's seat of power and overwhelmed the combined police and military forces to occupy the area fronting the Palace for half a morning.

JESS YUSON

Black Orpheus

play them songs
not heard in heaven
stirring the souls in hell
dreamless and deaf to pain
the dead are awoken
bray their savage hearts
and ferry them away from here
spare them of sight
your vision is crude
throughout the night
there is not only one
but a thousand eurydices
following you
listen to their whispers
they will redeem you
in their misery

Gary C. Devilles

Floppy Love

Floppy
disk akong nagiging
hard
pag kasama ka.

Dindo Perez

The Red Room

The lights flicker in silence
I grow patience inside me.
I learn to wait. When I'm alone
I write his name beautifully
only in my mind where his tears
are mine, his eyes arrests me.
The room is red in darkness,
as he speaks to me. I bleed.
We celebrate an interlude
of thought, the swift
and sweeping feeling around us
in solitude, the stars scattered
around us. I begin to shatter.
Later, when I remember him not
with me, he only rests in my blood.

Mark Anthony Angeles

Peas, Piece, Peace

What's it about Christmas that does weird things...?

by Bing T. Zubiri

Save you heard the story of Jaime, the 4 year old boy who was belting out his favorite Christmas carol? He began, "Silent Night, Holy Night." Carried away, he sang with all gusto, finally getting to the last line of the song — "Sleep in heavenly beans; sleep in heavenly beans."

Interrupting, his sister Joanna quickly corrected him: "It's not beans, Jaime! It's peas!"

Peas?

Well, for Joanna, Christmas—in a sense—meant peas!

Or what about the lady who heard that a tribe of American Indians residing outside of Taos, New Mexico have a tradition. In their pueblo, she was told, from December 15 to January 15, everything slows down. Everyone uses the season as "a time of being still." To which the lady remarked, "Still? I'm lucky if I come out of Christmas *still* in one piece!"

Or what about the 40 students in a Psychology class whose professor asked them to do an exercise on Word Suggestion? The professor said, "Write the word *Christmas* on the left side of your paper." Every student bent down to write the word.

And then the professor said, "Right after the word *Christmas*, write down the first thought that flashes through your mind."

"And, here's what they wrote— 'misa de gallo,' 'tree,' 'cards,' 'parol,' 'gifts,' 'presents,' 'manito-manita,' 'holiday,' 'carols,' 'quezo de bola,' 'ham' and 'Santa Claus!'"

Not one student had written, "the birthday of Jesus" or even the word "peace."

And yet the wonder of Christmas is that it *has* the power to bring peace! My jaw still drops when I hear the story of what happened in World War I—when soldiers from France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Serbia, Montenegro and Russia lined up against soldiers from Germany and Austria-Hungary. That was in August 1914, when World War I began.

Guess what happened five months later! December came and a weird thing happened! On Christmas day, soldiers who were lined up from the English Channel to the Swiss Alps started behaving strangely.

Here's how an old American soldier described what happened.

It was a cold, moonlit Christmas Eve. I huddled at the bottom of my trench. Suddenly, from the British trenches a loud, sweet tenor voice began to sing, "The Lord Is My Shepherd," and the sound floated up into the clear, moonlit air.

Then something surprising happened. From the German trenches, a rich baritone voice tuned in, singing "Der Herr Ist Mein

God ... is able to do IMMEASURABLY MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us... EPHESIANS 3:20

Heiter" [The Lord is My Shepherd]. For a few moments, everybody in both trenches concentrated on the sound of these two invisible singers and the beautiful music and the harmony. Then just as abruptly, the singing stopped, and the sound slowly died away.

We huddled in the bottom of our trenches and tried to keep warm until Christmas Day dawned. Early on Christmas morning, British soldiers raised "Merry Christmas" signs above the trenches. And then, some of the British soldiers climbed out of their trenches into the no man's land, carrying a football.

One soldier carried the round football (a real football where the foot is applied to the ball. You see, you need to understand that whenever the British go anywhere, they always take two things with them: their teapots and their footballs.) These English soldiers started kicking around a football, in a pickup game in no man's land, between the trenches.

Some of the German soldiers climbed out, and England played Germany at football in no man's land on Christmas Day in the middle of the battlefield in France in the first World War."

What is it about Christmas that does weird things like that?

I guess you could say it begins with a strange love. A love that makes God *carry your picture in his wallet*, as someone said. Or as another one said, *A love from God so that when your car stalls, he doesn't just start your stalled car for you; he comes and sits with you by the roadside.* A love so strong it makes God come down from heaven "holding a baby in His arms!"

When you accept that kind of love from God, it somehow becomes yours and begins to overflow from within and looks for someone else to pass it on to. And you end up having a strange "calm-plex."

Does this Christmas season find you feeling that your life is breaking into pieces?

That life is one big jigsaw puzzle? Here's a suggestion. Look to God for the missing peace!



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Graduation Gift Bonus (Optional)	20,000	40,000	60,000	80,000	100,000	200,000	400,000

AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PREMIUMS

AGE	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT
0	P 810.45	914.65	1,572.15	1,780.55	2,333.85	2,646.45	3,095.55	3,512.35	3,857.25	4,378.25	7,665.75	8,707.75	15,282.75	17,366.75
1	842.95	954.75	1,637.15	1,860.75	2,431.35	2,766.75	3,225.55	3,672.75	4,019.75	4,578.75	7,990.75	9,108.75	15,932.75	18,168.75
2	885.35	1,005.55	1,721.95	1,962.35	2,558.55	2,919.15	3,395.15	3,875.95	4,231.75	4,832.75	8,414.75	9,616.75	16,780.75	19,184.75
3	936.55	1,065.75	1,824.35	2,082.75	2,712.15	3,099.75	3,599.95	4,116.75	4,487.75	5,133.75	8,926.75	10,218.75	17,804.75	20,388.75
4	991.75	1,130.55	1,934.75	2,212.35	2,877.75	3,294.15	3,820.75	4,375.95	4,763.75	5,457.75	9,478.75	10,866.75	18,908.75	21,684.75
5	1,052.75	1,201.95	2,056.75	2,355.15	3,060.75	3,508.35	4,064.75	4,661.55	5,068.75	5,814.75	10,088.75	11,580.75	20,128.75	23,112.75
6	1,117.35	1,277.75	2,185.95	2,506.75	3,254.55	3,735.75	4,323.15	4,964.75	5,391.75	6,193.75	10,734.75	12,338.75	21,420.75	24,628.75
7	1,188.65	1,361.05	2,328.55	2,673.35	3,468.45	3,985.65	4,608.35	5,297.95	5,748.25	6,610.25	11,447.75	13,171.75	22,846.75	26,294.75
8	1,266.15	1,451.55	2,483.55	2,854.35	3,700.95	4,257.15	4,918.35	5,659.95	6,135.75	7,062.75	12,222.75	14,076.75	24,396.75	28,104.75
9	1,352.85	1,552.05	2,656.95	3,055.35	3,961.05	4,558.65	5,265.15	6,061.95	6,569.25	7,565.25	13,089.75	15,081.75	26,130.75	30,114.75
10	1,448.85	1,663.25	2,848.95	3,277.75	4,249.05	4,892.25	5,649.15	6,506.75	7,049.25	8,121.25	14,049.75	16,193.75	28,050.75	32,338.75
11	1,561.25	1,791.85	3,073.75	3,534.95	4,586.25	5,278.05	6,098.75	7,021.15	7,611.25	8,764.25	15,173.75	17,479.75	30,298.75	34,910.75

For your convenience, the "quarterly", "semi-annual" and "annual" premiums are also available. You may also apply for plans 600-900, 1100-1900. Please call or write us for the rates.



INSULAR LIFE INSURE DIRECT 15-MINUTE EXPRESS PROCESSING TIME

If you drop by our main office at the 5/F Direct Marketing Dept., Insular Life Bldg., 6781 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, we will issue your policy contract within the 15-minute Express Processing Time. For inquiries and assistance, please contact Candy, Jhezl or Eduard, Monday to Friday: 7 AM to 12 NN and 1 PM to 4 PM.

Tel. Nos. 892-3109 / 71 • 817-8436 • 893-8032 • 817-3051 Loc. 5027 / 28
Fax Nos. 892-3163 • 817-3155 e-mail: dmktg@insular.com.ph.

ACT NOW!!! SEND NO MONEY!

ENROLLMENT ENDS: Jan. 15, 2002

Fill out, sign and mail application to: COLLEGE PROVIDER
THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD. P.O. Box 1256 MCPO 0725 Makati City

APPLICATION FOR

ZAO 01L3A

COLLEGE PROVIDER PLAN

INFORMATION ON THE CHILD/PROPOSED INSURED

Name: _____
Relationship to Payor-Owner: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth (mo/day/yr): _____
Place of Birth: _____ ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT/OWNER/PAYOR

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth (mo/day/yr): _____
Place of Birth: _____ ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE
E-mail: _____
Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
Business Address: _____
Postal Code: _____ Tel./Fax No./s: _____
SSS/GSIS NO.: _____ TIN: _____

Please send my insurance documents to my ☐ business address ☐ home address

FOR THE CHILD, I AM APPLYING FOR:

☐ PLAN 100 ☐ PLAN 200 ☐ PLAN 300 ☐ PLAN 400 ☐ PLAN 500 ☐ PLAN 1000 ☐ Others _____

FOR THE CHILD, I AM APPLYING FOR A PLAN:

☐ With Graduation Gift Bonus ☐ Without Graduation Gift Bonus

I Prefer to Pay the Premiums: ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Annually

In case of premium default, I elect (check one only):

☐ Automatic Payment of Premium ☐ Extended Term Insurance

In the absence of such election and should the premium due continue to be in default until the end of the grace period provided in the Policy, this Policy shall automatically continue in force as non-participating Extended Term Insurance.

I elect that any dividend due on this policy be (check only one):

☐ left with the company to accumulate with interest ☐ paid in cash

I hereby agree that notwithstanding any dividend option I elected above, any dividend due on the policy will be applied towards any premium payment outstanding at the end of the grace period as provided for in Section 10 of the policy.

CHILD INSURANCE BENEFITS ARE TO BE PAID TO:

Beneficiary's Name: _____

Relationship to the Child-Insured: _____

PAYOR CHILD

1. What is your height? _____
2. What is your weight? _____
3. Have you consulted a physician for medical attention or surgical advice, or been confined to a hospital, sanitarium or similar institution during the past five (5) years? ☐ YES ☐ NO
4. Have you ever been told you had: cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure or tuberculosis? (If yes, underline which ailment) ☐ YES ☐ NO
5. Do you know of any impairment in your health or physical condition? ☐ YES ☐ NO

IMPORTANT: If your answer is "Yes" to any of the questions above, please give full details. Include doctor's name and address, hospital, nature, date, and result of consultation ailment, or impairment. Use separate sheet if necessary.

I understand that this insurance is issued based on the above statements which I represent are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I authorize any physician, hospital, clinic, or other medically related facility to furnish the Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd. with any information concerning our medical history and physical condition. I understand that the Policy will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment. IF THE BENEFICIARY OR RECIPIENT OF ANY BENEFIT UNDER THIS PLAN IS A MINOR, such benefit shall be paid to his or her Guardian or Trustee, provided that if the amount of benefit exceeds P50,000, a court-approved Guardian's Bond should be submitted to the Company, as required by law.

Signature of Owner/Payor: _____ Date: _____



THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

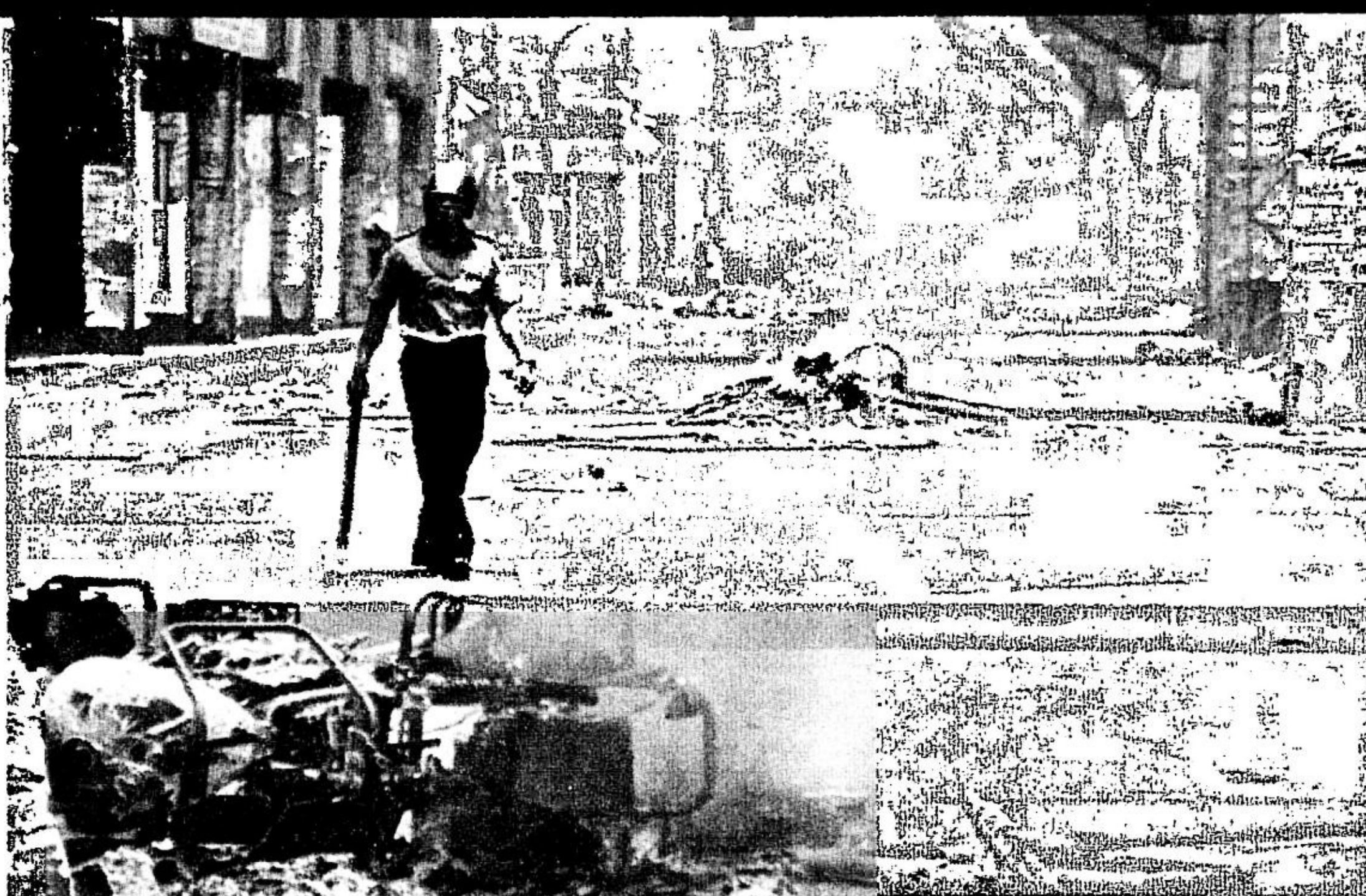
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Insular Life Building, 6781 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City Philippines

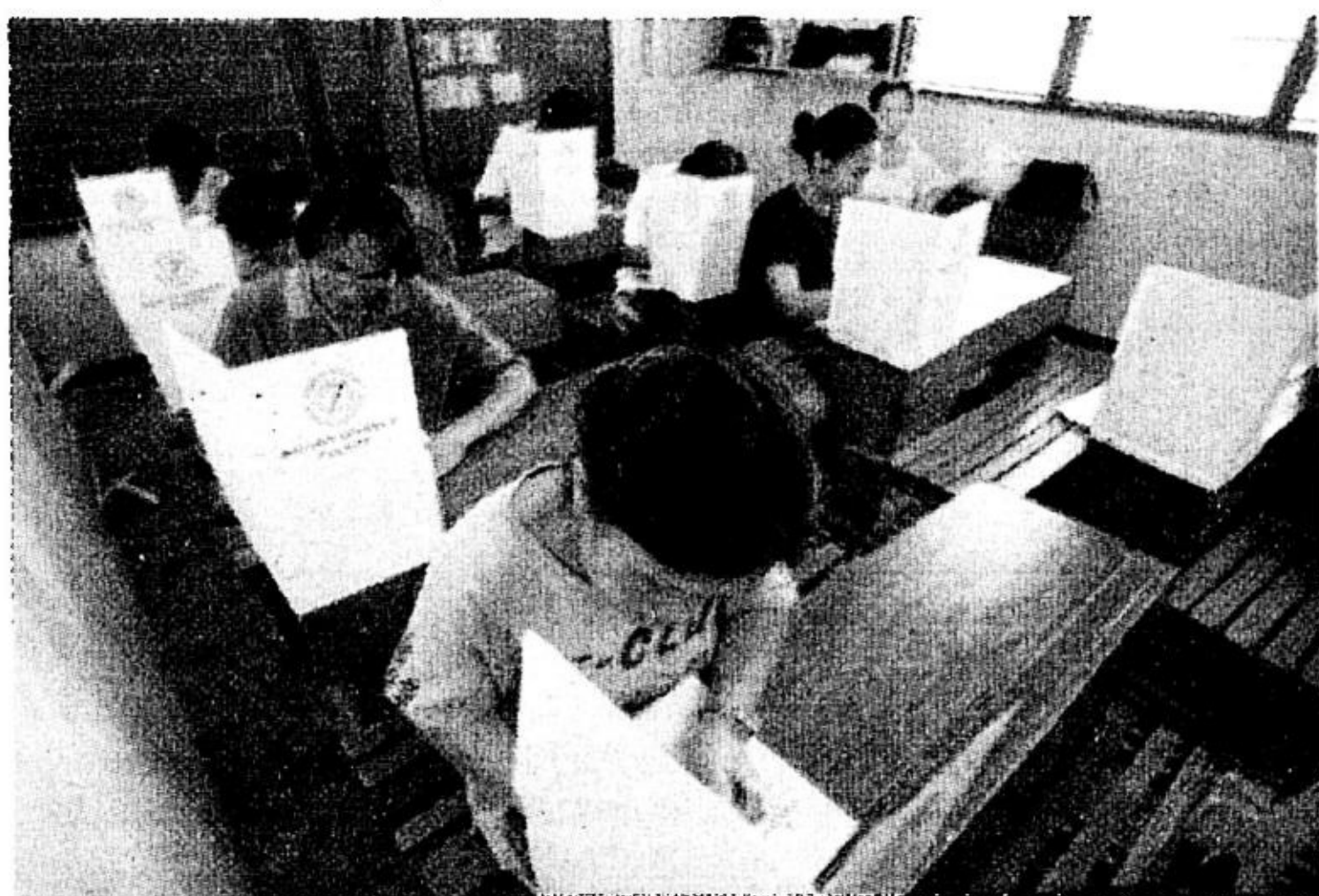
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e-mail: dmktg@insular.com.ph • http://www.insularlife.com.ph



May 1: As the smoke clears. A policeman walks past the smoldering remains of vehicles torched by Estrada loyalists who had earlier marched from the Edsa Shrine to storm Malacanang. It took the government at least 12 hours of running gun battle, five Scorpion light tanks, two armed personnel carriers and some 2,000 military and anti-riot police to disperse the demonstrators armed with knives, rocks, pipes and wooden clubs. At least three persons were killed and hundreds injured in the aborted power grab.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



May 15: Vox Populi. Voters in Caloocan City finally get to fill up their ballots days after the May 11 national elections. A delay in the distribution of poll materials in some 2,000 precincts in Caloocan resulted in chaos that prompted the Commission on Elections to declare the holding of a special vote in the affected areas. Except for isolated reports of poll irregularities, the first national election under the Arroyo administration was generally peaceful. The ruling coalition won eight of the 13 available senatorial seats.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

June 18: Raring to go. Elements of the Scout Rangers eagerly jump off their truck in pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf rebels who had kidnapped 20 hostages, including three Americans, from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27. Three of the hostages were eventually released amid contradictory talks of ransom being paid. An American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, was later confirmed dead.

DENNIS SABANGAN





July 7: Storm warning. Army reservists sift through the ruins of a house to recover the body of a 64-year-old woman in Baguio City. The forces of nature struck with chilling regularity as Typhoon Ferie left in its wake 128 people dead.

TOOTS SOBERANO



August 16: Trial and error. Asset-turned-witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay and military intelligence man Col. Victor Corpus make for an unlikely pair at a congressional hearing on the alleged illegal activities of Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. Punctuated by the controversial and often confusing statements of Mawanay and Corpus, the hearings riveted a nation and enriched local language with a new term: narco-politics.

JESS YUSON

July 23: Children and paper boats. Before an expectant nation, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo delivers her first State of the Nation Address at the House of Representatives. Watched by Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia and flanked by children from the Payatas dumpsite, she recounts a tale of paper boats sailing up to Malacañang to preface her response to the country's most pressing problems.

JOAN BONDOC





August 18: The tragic fires. The year's most chilling accident resonates with irony and tragedy. In town for a religious gathering, 81 people, including young children, died from burns and suffocation when the Quezon City Manor Hotel caught fire and trapped the out-of-towners. The incident would lead to a sudden review of the safety of various buildings in the city.

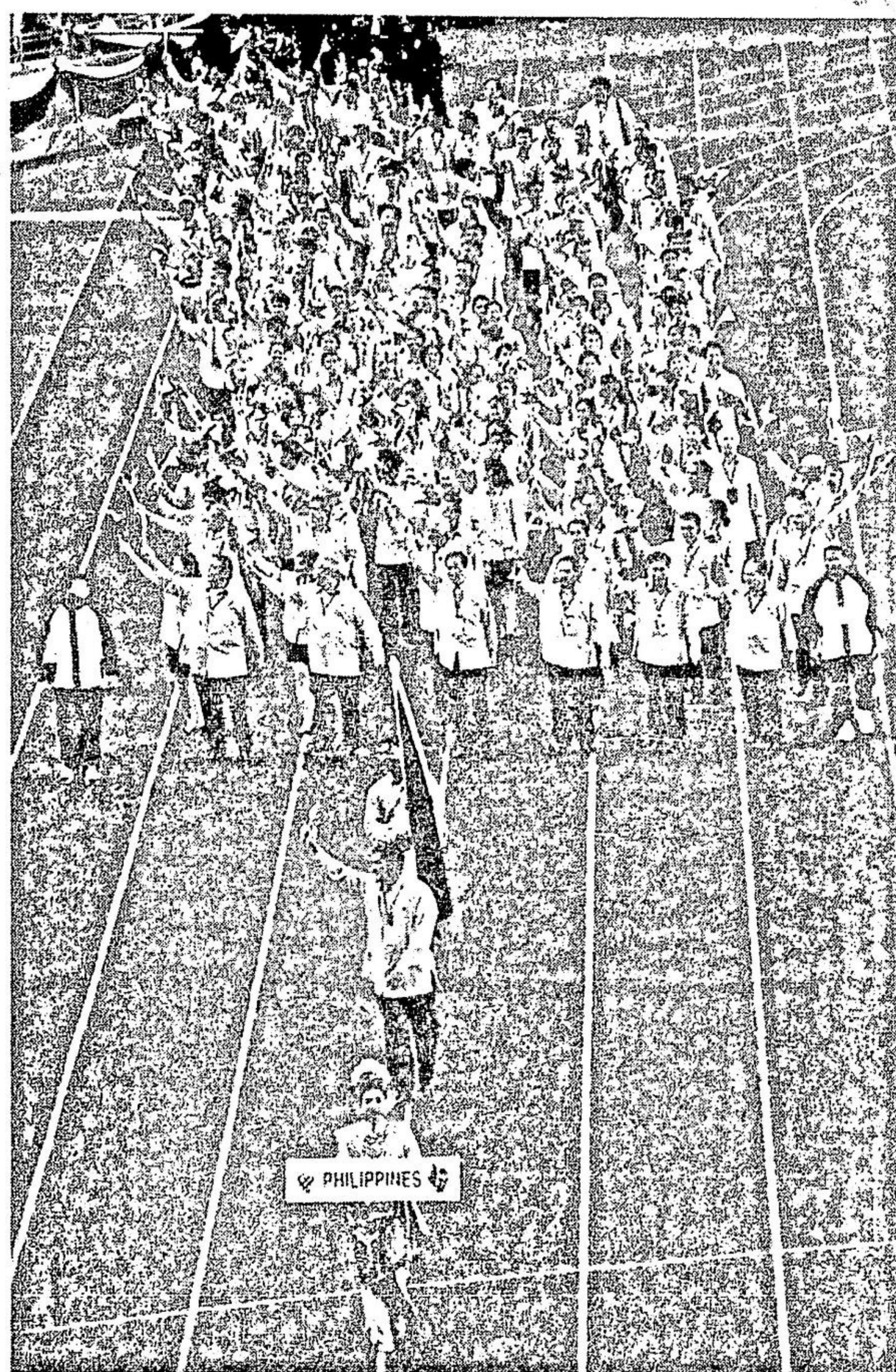
RANDY HORMILLOSA



August 29: Bearing witness. Star witness Rosemarie "Rosebud" Ong speaks at length against Lacson during congressional hearings on the latter's alleged links to drug dealers, including Kim Wong. Like Mawanay, Rosebud provided primetime entertainment as she spills intimate details about her former handler and lover John Campos who alternately denies then confirms the relationship.

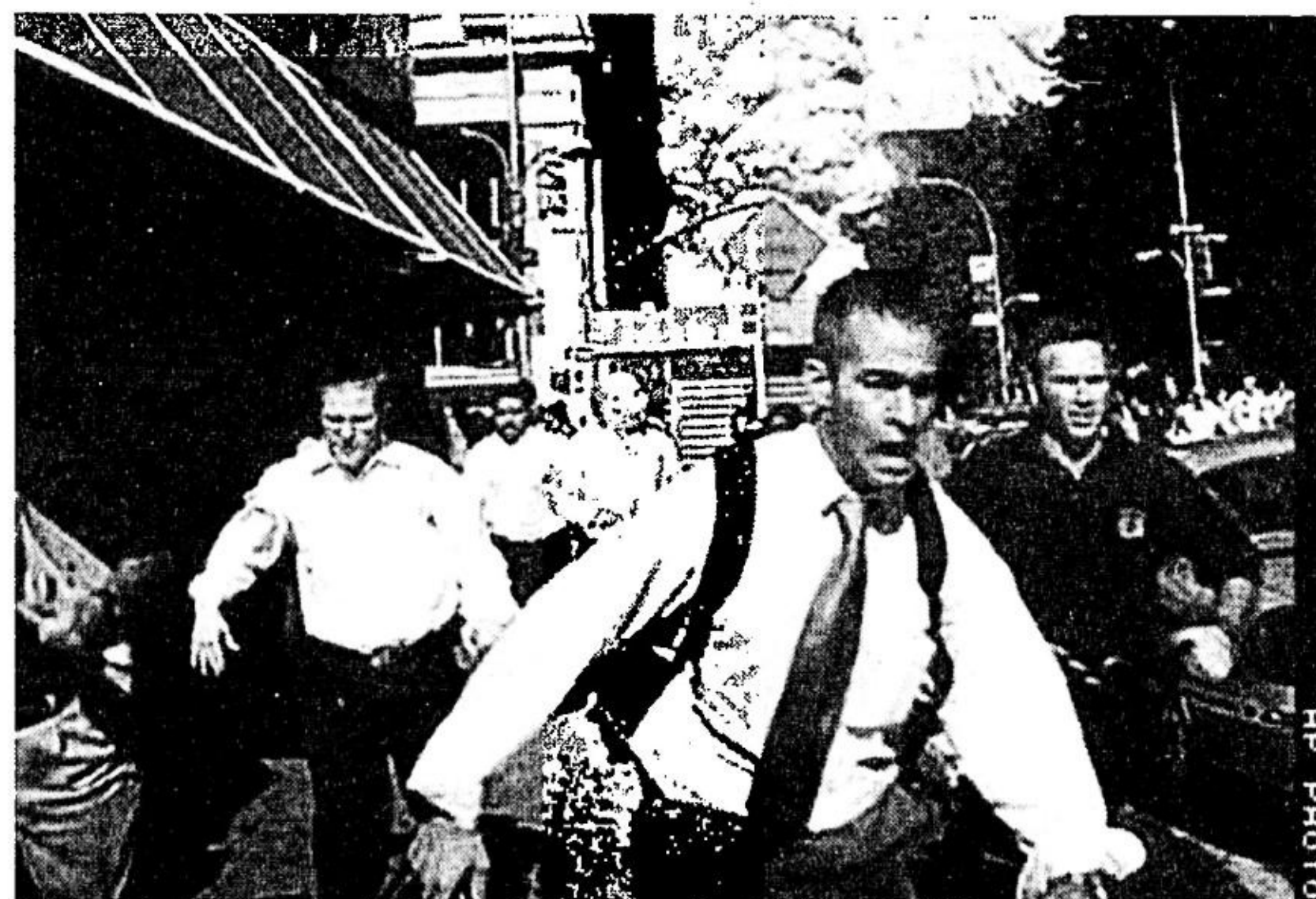
JESS YUSON

September 11: Wounding the world. Pursued by a wave of debris, panicked New Yorkers run for their lives as terrorists ram two jetliners into the World Trade Center in Manhattan. One of the most heinous acts of terrorism ever, the attack left thousands missing or dead, and brought the entire world into a new era of compassion—and the United States into a new war. **AP PHOTO**



September 8: Medal hopeful. Led by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, an optimistic Philippine delegation walks proudly during the opening ceremonies for the 21st Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur. Despite some amazing efforts, the Filipino contingent finished a disappointing fifth, with 33 gold medals, 66 silver medals and 66 bronze medals.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



October 1: Man in limbo. As the year draws to a close, Joseph Estrada's fate remains uncertain. As the first Philippine president to be arrested and brought to trial on charges of plunder, Estrada faces what could be many, many long days in court. He appears to be pondering this future as he walks to the holding room of the Sandiganbayan followed by his erstwhile lawyer and co-accused, Edward Sera-pio.

VAL HANDUMON



October 3: Ganito 'yon. Commission on Elections (Comelec) Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco puts down in black and white why Chairman Alfredo Benipayo is accountable for alleged irregularities in the Comelec. The outspoken Tancangco, an Erap appointee, has been Benipayo's strident critic since the latter assumed office. **JOAN BONDOC**



October 11: Achilles' heel. First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, identified as the President's very own "weakest link," appears confident of having his name cleared as former presidential appointments secretary Veronica Rodrigo-Sun speaks before the Senate Blue Ribbon committee. Inquiries were made into allegations that Arroyo received P50 million in a telecommunications deal. Each time his name figured in an issue, Arroyo found it best to leave the country or lie low.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



October 3: Fear and the flu. In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, people around the world have become hostage to fears of biological attacks. When a mysterious virus downed scores of students in several Metro Manila private schools, panicked parents feared the worst. The Department of Health declared it merely a flu outbreak.

DENNIS SABANGAN



October 15. We got game! Not since Jeanne Young invited people to "Spin A Win" has the game show enjoyed such a renaissance. With Channel 13's "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" as the show that started it all, Christopher de Leon became the undisputed ringmaster in this circus of sweaty palms and sudden fortunes. Many shows have followed, but De Leon always has the first – and final – answer.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



November 3. Sour grapes? Embittered by his loss of power and influence in the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Nur Misuari and his loyal followers within the MNLF staged a mutiny last November 19 in Jolo that cost 113 lives. A couple of weeks earlier, at the 5th Bangsa Moro National Congress in Silangkan, Parang, Jolo, he raised a defiant arm against those who sought to wrest power from him.

VAL HANDUMON

November 13. Painful goodbye.

At the funeral of well-loved actress and comedienne Nida Blanca, stabbed to death last November 6, family and friends from showbusiness, led by husband Rod Strunk, daughter Kay Torres, and actresses Maricel Soriano and Nova Villa, bid a tearful goodbye. The mystery behind the murder remains, as Strunk and fall guy Philip Medel have joined the list of suspects. Blanca's death highlighted a year of losses and trials for Philippine showbusiness, which also saw the suicide of former beauty queen and actress Maria Teresa Carlson and a road accident that put Vandolph in a coma.

VAL HANDUMON





November 23. Best performance by a fall guy. The dubious award goes hands-down to the overacting Philip Medel, whose hysterical retraction of his confession and claim that he was tortured, delivered at the Department of Justice, gave viewers a larger dose of drama than any soap opera could bubble up. Medel's consequent grandstanding – that mushy phone call to his wife was truly nauseating – cast even greater doubts on his credibility. It didn't help that he needed a prophylaxis.

ERIK ARAZAS



November 27. Innocents on parade. Children led the grim line of hostages held by Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels on the road in Pasonanca, Zamboanga after the Misuari-led mutiny that claimed many lives. It was a most appropriate image for the reality of civilians suffering in the crossfire between warring factions in volatile Mindanao. Misuari would later escape capture by fleeing to Malaysia.

CHARLIE SACEDA



Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Rizal Day



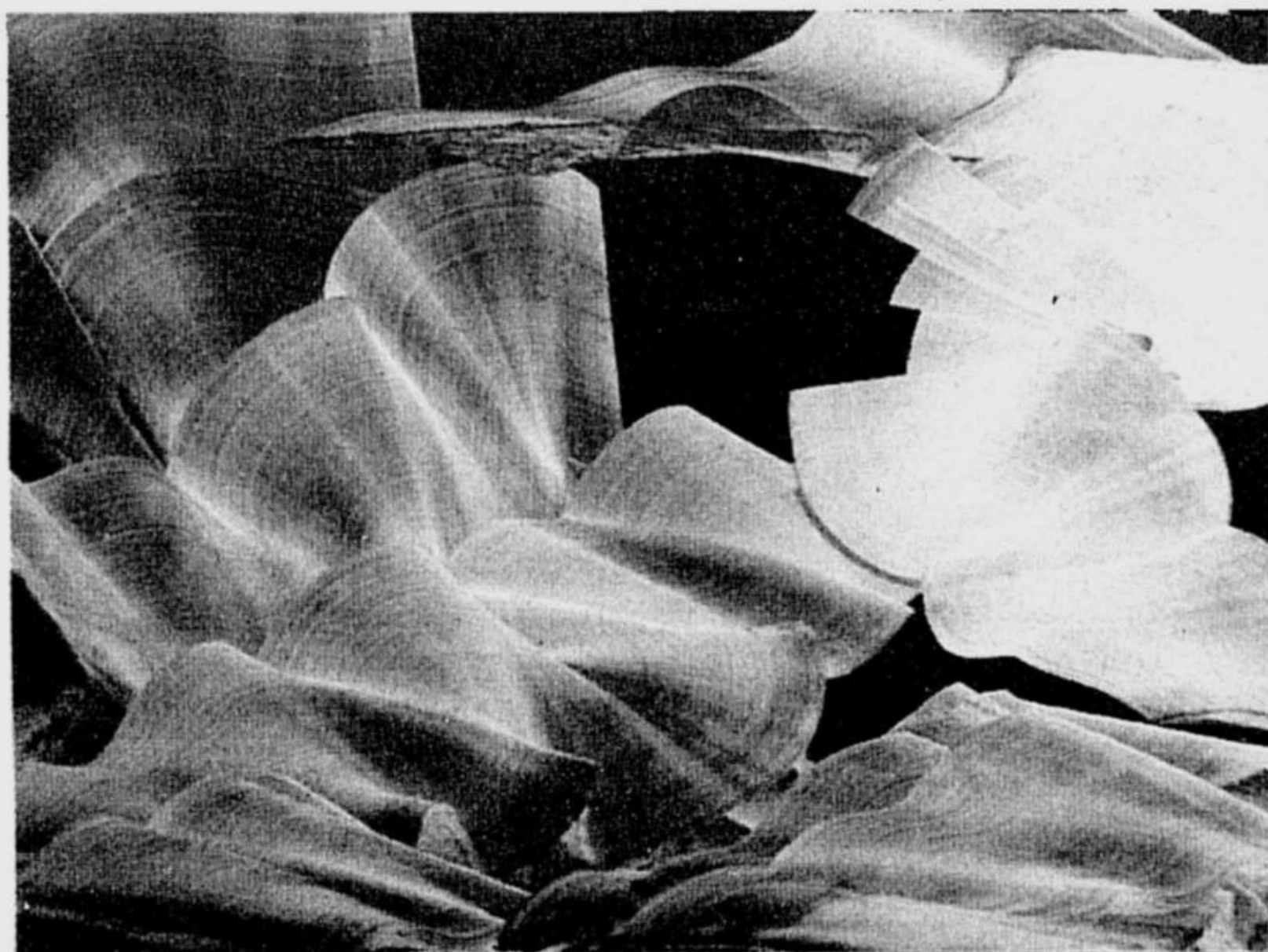
This Week

Art

Norte, an exhibit of landscapes, people and prestigious traditions of the north in acrylic, watercolor and pastel by George Raspado at Galeria de las Islas, 3/F Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila until Jan. 10. For details, call 527-2113.

Calmness, an exhibit of watercolor paintings by Bobby A. Nuestro at Starbucks Coffee, G/F 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati City until Jan. 6.

Olympus: The House of God, a collection of pen and ink drawings by Janos Delacruz until Jan. 30 at the Madrigal Art Center in Ayala Alabang.



"Glimpses of Tagaytay Highlands 4" by Justin Nuyda, on exhibit at Le Soufflé at The Fort

Mindscapes: Glimpses of Tagaytay Highlands, an exhibit of recent works by Justin Nuyda, ongoing at the Le Soufflé Restaurant-Wine Bar at The Fort, Fort Bonifacio in cooperation with Galleria Duemila. For details, call 887-5108 or 831-9990.

Permanent Collection, featuring the works of National Artists Jose Abueva, Botong Francisco, Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Manansala and H. R. Ocampo together with a dozen contemporary Filipino artists, ongoing at the GSIS Museum of Art, GSIS Building, Pasay City. For details, call 551-1301.

Pito-Pito, paintings by Ian Victoriano and Jon Red until Jan. 11 at the Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery, 13 Visayas Ave., QC. For details, call 928-1158.

Limbo, an exhibit of old prints from the collection of former GSIS president and general manager Federico Pascual, extended until March 29 at the GSIS Museum of Art, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Music

Captain's Bar at the Mandarin Oriental welcomes 2002 with a **New Year's Eve party** from 10 p.m. onwards, featuring the premier 747 band. P350+ consumable entrance fee applies. A breakfast buffet from 6-11 a.m. on New Year's Day is available at P630+ per adult and P360+ per child.

Unwind to the rhythm of **Spirit A.D.** every Thursday night at the Calesa Music Bar and Lounge of Hyatt Regency Manila. The ensemble promises a musical journey of the most popular tunes from revivals and R&B to the greatest all-time hits.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Henì, Isang Musikal sa Buhay ni St. Eugene de Mazenod, a musical narrating St. Eugene's parochial missions and the events that led to his founding of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. It will run until March 10, 2002 at Notre Dame of Greater Manila Auditorium, Mother Ignacia Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City. For details, call 366-6334 or 365-9824.

Dangal ng Lahing Pilipino, a multimedia production tour paying tribute to the country's National Artists, will feature performances of the Philippine Madrigal Singers, John Arcilla, Isay Alvarez, Nonie Buencamino, guitarist Lester Demetillo, together with ballet/contemporary dancers Sonny Locsin, Gerald Mercado, Jaime Prado and Vinia Pamplona. The performance will also feature an original theme song penned by Willy Cruz with lyrics by National Artist Levi Celerio. Two original choreographies by Agnes Locsin will also be performed. An audio-visual presentation will be incorporated between said shows. Provincial sites for the outreach tour are Batangas and Bulacan in December and Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and Bacolod in February. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1708-1710.

Food

Manila Diamond Hotel's Restaurant Le Bellevue offers an eight-course **Holiday Dinner Set Menu** until Dec. 31 prepared to please your palate from the appetizer down to dessert. Also try its holiday cake Chocolate Hazelnut Café Rhapsody, a sweet symphony of chopped hazelnuts, praline masse, coffee powder and milk chocolate ganache. For inquiries, call 526-2211.

Atbp

The bestseller **Chicken Soup for the Soul** is now immortalized through the artistically designed Hallmark's line of products from handy greeting cards, bookmarks, posters and small thoughts-to-keep cards. The new Chicken Soup for the Soul line is available at all National Bookstores and other fine retail outlets nationwide. For details, call 722-4311 and 722-4325.

The Viscomm group is now accepting students for its first quarter Year 2002 **workshops on painting and creative writing**. Painting lessons offered include basic and advanced studies in charcoal, watercolor, pastel, acrylic, oil and mixed media. Writing sessions cover children's story writing, essay and feature, scriptwriting, novel and poetry. Both courses are open to children and adults. For details, call 740-7221.

MMS Batch 2002 Membership Training Orientation organized by the Metropolitan Mountaineering Society is open to all outdoor enthusiasts on Jan. 12, 2-5 p.m. at Triple V Restaurant, 3/F SM Megamall. For details, call Arin Desembrana at 933-4354, 948-5141, 0915-701-0979 or email mms@eudoramail.com.

The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting **design proposals for the 2002 NCBD poster**. The guiding theme is "**Salamat sa Libro, Abot Ko ang Mundo**." Design proposals must be in color, at most 18 x 24 inches but not smaller than 9 x

12 inches, and must be received by the PBBY secretariat no later than 5 p.m., Feb. 15, 2002. The winning design will be chosen by the Board and their comments for finalizing the poster will be given to the winning designer, who will be given P7,500 upon submission of complete camera-ready material. For details, call 372-3548 to 49 or email pbby@adarna.com.ph. Back-to-back **Writing Workshops** at the Earthlite, 4/F COD Building, Cubao, QC. Jan. 5—Fiction for Beginners; Jan. 6—Feature Writing. Handouts and certificates will be given. For details, call 417-1521 or text 0919-7405199.

Dreamweaver, a bedtime story writing and illustration contest open to budding writers and illustrators (team or individual) under three categories: Grade School (Grades 6 and 7), High School, and Adult (college level and above). All entries must be submitted with an endorsement from school authorities along with the application form available in the December 2001 issue of Family Reader magazine or in www.ivegotstyle.net. All story entries must be typewritten/printed on short bond paper, maximum of 10 pages, single-spaced, accompanied by three illustrations using any medium. All entries must not have been previously published in any publication. Deadline for submission is Jan. 31, 2002. The theme is **Family Togetherness in Modern Times**. Send all entries to Family Reader Magazine's Bedtime Story Contest, 18/F Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For details, call 631-2859.

The Pan Pacific Manila gives you a chance to travel and see breathtaking places. Guests who avail themselves of the **Bookings and Winning Promo Package** until Jan. 31, 2002 are entitled to a raffle coupon to win any of these prizes: airfare and accommodation to Palau Pacific Resort, trip to Europe, accommodation at Pearl of the Pacific Boracay, overnight villa accommodation at Fontana Resort and an overnight stay at the Pan Pacific Manila. Raffle draw will be on Feb. 14 at the hotel lobby. For inquiries, call 536-0788.

Students, hobbyists and amateur photographers are invited to join the photography workshop/seminar of the **Photoworld Manila 2002** to be held on Jan. 31 to Feb. 4 at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City with the theme "**Photography at Work**." For details, call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

X-manila

The Samahan ng mga Litratista sa Rizal (SLR) will hold its 8th Annual Photography exhibit, **Soul, Light, Realism**, at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Marcos Highway, Cainta until Jan. 2. It will showcase the camera club's best photographs for the year 2001.

Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, Kalapfest 2001, an annual festival in honor of the city's patron Sto. Niño, will be held today. Highlights include street party with live bands, ballroom and hip-hop dance competition, billiard and basketball challenge and a question and answer trivia contest for avid texters. For inquiries call (043) 288-5622.

The Ding Masibucan Club of Concepcion, Tarlac will hold its annual traditional ball tonight at 7 at the Benigno S. Aquino Plaza, Concepcion, Tarlac. For inquiries, call (045) 923-0502.

Museo De La Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite offers a tour package for visitors who want to have a different and worthwhile museum experience. The package includes entrance fee to the museum, a guided tour to the museum collection, lunch or snacks at La Buena Comida, and optional souvenir items. Bookings must be made at least two weeks in advance. Special discount rates are also offered for student groups. For inquiries, call (02) 844-7831 or (046) 416-4531 loc. 3151.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.